Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-004
Tuesday
7 January 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-004 7 January 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

UN Censure of Israeli Deportation Bid Hailed 2
'Ashrawi 'Very Satisfied' *[AFP]* 2
'Abd-Rabbuh: UN Vote 'Far-Reaching' *[AFP]* 2
PLO To Authorize Delegation's Departure *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Abu-Sharif Decries Israeli Bid To Arm Settlers *[PETRA-JNA]* 2
'Arafat Receives Iraqi Justice Minister 4 Jan *[Algiers VOP]* 3
Fatah Military Wing Pledges Armed Struggle *[Algiers VOP]* 3

OPEC Affairs

Indonesian Minister on 'Excess' Oil Output *[Jakarta ANTARA]* 4

South Asian Regional Affairs

Maldives' Zaki Named SAARC Secretary General *[Delhi Radio]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports of Nuclear Program *[Algiers TV]* 6
Ghozali 'Categorically' Denies Reports *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Paper Dismisses 'Alleged Discoveries' *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 6

Egypt

Musa Says Continued Israeli Acts To Derail Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Editorial Warns of Israel's 'Provocative Games' *[MENA]* 7
Paper on U.S. 'New Understanding' in Peace Talks *[MENA]* 7
Mubarak Receives al-Qadhdhafi Message From Envoy *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Libya's al-Kharrubi Departs 6 Jan *[MENA]* 8

Libya

Commentary Scores Anti-Libyan 'State Terrorism' *[JANA]* 8

Mauritania

Government Recognizes Russian Federation *[Nouakchott Radio]* 9

Sudan

Al-Bashir Details Duties of Transitional Assembly *[Omdurman Radio]* 9
Justice Ministry Clarifies Assembly's Role *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
Al-Bashir Sends al-Qadhdhafi Note on Integration *[SUNA]* 10
Accords Seek Increased Integration With Libya *[SUNA]* 10

Chadian Delegation Meets With RCC's al-Tahir *[Omdurman Radio]* 10

Tunisia

Tunis Condemns Israeli Deportation of Palestinians *[Tunis Radio]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Minister Proposes Iranian Commercial Center *[Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran]* 12

Oman

Saudi Minister Arrives With Message for Sultan *[Muscat Radio]* 12

Qatar

Accord Reached With Iran on Oil, Gas Ventures *[IRNA]* 12

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Denounces Israeli Deportation Order *[Riyadh Radio]* 12
Syrian Joint Committee Delegates Arrive in Riyadh *[SPA]* 12
Al-Shar' Speech Notes Common Goals *[Damascus Radio]* 13

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Letter From Saudi King *[WAKH]* 13

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Receives Officials on Army Day *[Baghdad Radio]* 14
Al-Majid Warns Armed Forces Against Treason *[INA]* 14
Discusses Army Preparations *[INA]* 14
'Izzat Ibrahim Lays Wreath on Martyr's Monument *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
Article Refutes SANA Report of Executions *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 2 Jan]* 15
Text of 'Arafat's Cable to Saddam Husayn *[INA]* 16
Government-Kurdish Talks Said To Be Extended *[AFP]* 16
Deadlock Creates Risk of Violence *[AFP]* 17
Kurdish Leader Talabani Praises Operations *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 17
Reportage of Government, Opposition Clashes 17
Helicopter Downed in al-'Amarah *[AFP]* 17
100 Saddam 'Mercenaries' Said Killed *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 17
Ammunition Dump Reportedly Destroyed *[Tehran Radio]* 18
Regime Shells Kifri *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 18
Attack Launched on Air Force Command *[MENA]* 18
Regime Reportedly Kills Karbala' Poet *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 18
Talabani's 'Gunmen' Allegedly Stealing Oil *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Saddam, Trade Minister on Food Rationing Report *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Trade Minister Pledges Continued Efforts *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Red Crescent To Expand Relief Operations in North *[Al-THAWRAH 30 Dec]* 20

ISRAEL

Envoy Discusses UN Vote, Resents U.S. Attitude *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Ben-Aharon on UN Vote, U.S. Position *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
Statement—UN Resolution 'One-Sided, Unjust' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Ministers on UN Condemnation of Deportations 21
Netanyahu Disappointed, But Not Surprised *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Arens—UN Condemnation Expected *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Olmert—U.S. Atmosphere 'Hostile' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23

Shamir Discusses Deportation Decision *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Levi Rejects EC Protest Over Deportations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Shamir—All But Syria Agree to Talks in Region *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jan]* 23
Likud-Labor Discuss Advancing Elections *[DAVAR 7 Jan]* 24
Peres, Shamir Discuss Electoral Reform, Security *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Jan]* 24
Peres on UN Condemnation, Shamir Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Arens To Examine Request for New Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Sharon Says U.S. 'Holding Soviet Jews Hostage' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Settlement Data Reviewed Due to U.S. Opposition *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 7 Jan]* 25

JORDAN

Joint Decision on Peace Talks To Be Made *[Amman Radio]* 26
Al-Majali on Peace Talks, Jordan's Position *[Amman TV]* 26
Faysal al-Husayni Arrives To Discuss Peace Talks *[PETRA-JNA]* 28
Comments on Deportations *[Amman TV]* 28
Reacts to UN Resolution; Ends Visit *[Amman Radio]* 29
PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Consultations *[Amman Radio]* 29
Awaits UN Reaction to Deportations *[Amman TV]* 29
PLO Official on Peace Talks, Arab Coordination *[AL-DUSTUR 6 Jan]* 29
King Husayn on Arab Coordination, Conference *[PETRA-JNA]* 30
Premier, Canadian Minister Discuss Cooperation *[Amman Radio]* 30
Sudanese Ministers Arrive To Attend Trade Fair *[Amman Radio]* 30

LEBANON

Buwayz Says Delegation To Attend Washington Talks *[VOL]* 32
Buwayz Leaves for Damascus Talks 5 Jan *[RFL]* 32
Returns, Briefs al-Hirawi *[RFL]* 32
Syrian Vice President Arrives, Meets al-Hirawi *[VOL]* 32
Syrian Military Leaders Attend *[VOM]* 32
Fatah Statement on Assassination of Official *[RFL]* 32
Reportage on Reaction to al-Bastah Bombing 32
Fadlallah, Islamic Amal Leader Comment *[VOM]* 32
Hizballah Official on 'Message' to Syria *[VOM]* 33
Prayer Leader Blames U.S. *[IRNA]* 33
Further on Fadlallah Comments *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 34
Foreign Minister Says Israel Ordered Attacks *[AFP]* 34
Sources on Mosad Bombings, Assassination Scheme *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 34
Resistance Attacks Israeli-Lahd Patrol *[Beirut Radio]* 34
UNIFIL Food, Medical Convoy Enters Town *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Siege Continues *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 35
Israeli Militia Shell Areas in South *[Beirut Radio]* 35

SYRIA

'Arafat Praises Meeting With al-Asad, Departs *[Damascus TV]* 36
Vice President Receives Lebanon's al-Husayni *[SANA]* 36
Papers Demand U.S. Action on Israeli Deportations *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Commentary Says Deportations 'Zionist Policy' *[Damascus Radio]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Border Talks With Burma Set for 7 Jan *[Dhaka Radio]* 38
Tensions Now 'Subsided' *[AFP]* 38

Iran

Switzerland Reopens Embassy After 'Diplomatic Row' *[AFP]* 38
Swiss Arrest of Iranian Diplomat Criticized *[SALAM 26 Dec]* 39
Switzerland Guilty of 'Hostile Steps' *[ABRAR in English 26 Dec]* 39
Emami-Kashani Hails Algerian Muslims' Triumph *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Editorial Says Victory 'Dubious Prize' *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Dec]* 40
'Secret' Nuclear Accord Signed With France *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 Dec]* 40
Gulf Security Body Should Include Iran, Iraq *[Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 28 Dec]* 41
GCC 'Worthy of Severe Criticism' *[Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 28 Dec]* 41
Official Says UN Undercounts War Damage by Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Report Assesses Desire for Larger Role in Lebanon
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Dec] 42
Government Honors UN Arms Boycott of SFRY *[IRNA]* 43
'Unrest' Reported Among Law Enforcement Agencies *[Iran's Flag of Freedom]* 43
President Chairs National Security Council Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 43

Israel

Commenting on the Security Council condemnation of the decision to expel 12 Palestinians, UN Permanent Representative Yoram Aridor said the resolution was "unbalanced," adding that he strongly "resented" the U.S. "attitude" toward the matter, Jerusalem radio reported. In further criticism of the UN vote, Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the Israeli delegation to peace talks with Syria, expressed "displeasure, anger, and regret," and predicted the resolution would have an "adverse effect" on the Washington peace talks, Tel Aviv radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi stated that she was "very satisfied" with the UN Security Council's unanimous vote to strongly condemn an Israeli order to deport 12 Palestinians, AFP reported. Speaking from Jerusalem, 'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian delegation had "no plans" to withdraw from the upcoming round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

Jordan

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir praised the UN Security Council's resolution against Israeli deportation orders to 12 Palestinians as being "responsible" and a sign of the international community's respect for the rights of Palestinians, Amman radio reported. The minister's remarks followed consultations in Amman between Jordanian officials and a Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat.

Syria

The postponed departure of the Syrian delegation to the Washington peace talks is a direct response to Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinians and a demonstration of solidarity with the Palestinian people, a TISHRIN editorial affirmed. The same editorial urged the U.S. to intervene to save the peace process and curb Israeli "aggressiveness."

Iraq

Kurdish representatives and Iraqi officials have extended their negotiations in Baghdad to resolve a 10-week-old deadlock between the two sides in northern Iraq, sources close to the Kurdistan Front revealed to AFP.

Algeria

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali has categorically denied reports published in the UK paper THE SUNDAY TIMES alleging that Iraq shipped uranium to the country and passed on the technological knowhow to produce a nuclear weapon, Algiers Radio reported. The TIMES claimed Algeria is working secretly with Iraq to manufacture the first "Islamic bomb."

Iran

The Swiss Embassy in Tehran reopened on 5 January after being closed for one week, an Embassy spokesman announced. The Embassy's shutdown was prompted by a diplomatic dispute that followed an Iranian Embassy staffer's arrest in Bern on 23 December in connection with the murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar, AFP noted.

Bangladesh

Tension along the border with Burma eased as the two countries prepared for their second round of talks on 7 January, government sources told Hong Kong AFP. Nevertheless, Dhaka's Armed Forces remained on full alert along the border, even as Rangoon's troops had reportedly pulled back up to two miles from the border.

Palestinian Affairs

UN Censure of Israeli Deportation Bid Hailed

'Ashrawi 'Very Satisfied'

NC0701082692 Paris AFP in English 0759 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 7 (AFP)—Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi on Tuesday voiced satisfaction over U.N. condemnation of Israel's planned deportation of Palestinians and said it was now up to the PLO to give her team the green light to attend Arab-Israeli talks in Washington.

"After this vote strongly condemning the deportation of 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories, we are now waiting for a green light from the PLO to attend bilateral negotiations in Washington," 'Ashrawi told AFP.

The talks were set to start Tuesday in the American capital but the Palestinians and other Arab parties to the negotiations have postponed sending their delegations to Washington as they waited for the U.N. condemnation.

The U.N. vote was unanimously endorsed Monday by the 15-member Security Council, including the United States.

Saying she was "very satisfied" with the outcome of the U.N. vote, 'Ashrawi reiterated that the Palestinians had no plans to withdraw from the U.S. and Russian sponsored peace talks with Israel.

"We hope, however, that this resolution will not be shelved or remain a dead letter but that on the contrary it will lead to a reversal of Israel's intentions to deport the Palestinians," 'Ashrawi said.

The Palestinian team is part of a joint delegation with Jordan and gets its instructions from the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which is not an official party to the peace talks.

'Abd-Rabbuh: UN Vote 'Far-Reaching'

NC0701101592 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, Jan 7 (AFP)—A senior PLO leader on Tuesday hailed the U.N. vote condemning Israel for its plans to deport Palestinians and said Arab parties would now begin contacts on their participation in Middle East peace talks.

Monday's unanimous Security Council condemnation was "far- reaching and is of major political significance," said Yasir 'Abd- al-Rabbuh, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization executive committee.

"We are going to monitor very closely the respect for this resolution shown by the United States and the Security Council," he told AFP.

The PLO, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon were later Tuesday to begin consultations "to reach a common position on the next step," he said.

"No (Arab) delegation will leave for Washington before the end of these contacts."

Arab delegations to bilateral peace talks with Israel, scheduled to resume in Washington Tuesday, last week put off their departure to protest an Israeli decision Thursday to expel 12 Palestinian activists from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir took the step, later approved by the cabinet, a day after an Israeli settler was shot to death on the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian sources on Monday stressed that Arab participation in the current round of negotiations would require both United Nations condemnation of Israel and U.S. pressure on the Jewish state.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd bin-Shakir was to meet here Tuesday with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to consider the next Arab step, an authoritative source said.

Jordanian officials meanwhile declined to comment on the U.N. resolution.

PLO To Authorize Delegation's Departure

JN0701092492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The PLO, through its spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, today expressed its satisfaction with the resolution issued by the UN Security Council last night, and which strongly denounces the recent Israeli decision to deport 12 Palestinians.

In light of the UN Security Council resolution, the leadership will, within the next few hours, give the green light to the Palestinian delegation to leave for Washington to resume the talks with Israel.

The PLO spokesman noted that the Arab delegations to the peace talks will leave together for Washington due to the existing coordination among these delegations.

Abu-Sharif Decries Israeli Bid To Arm Settlers

JN0501132192 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Tunis, 5 Jan (PETRA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that while warning against the consequences of the aggressive Israeli decisions and calling on the U.S. and European governments to adopt a firm practical position toward the Israeli Government, we stress our adherence to the peaceful approach to finding a political solution to the Middle East conflict based on international legitimacy in order to bring an end to the Israeli occupation, give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, and establish comprehensive peace in the region.

Abu-Sharif described the Israeli Government's decision through its Defense Minister Moshe Arens to distribute weapons to settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an aggressive action, and a plan to commit mass killings of Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In statements PETRA received by facsimile from Tunis, Abu-Sharif cautioned the world public opinion, and the U.S. public opinion in particular, against the grave consequences of this decision.

He said: Defense Minister Moshe Arens distributed weapons to settlers, and gave them the authority to open fire on Arab citizens without having to refer to anybody. This is a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention and a prelude to the perpetration of mass killings. Hence, we hold the Israeli Government fully responsible for the shooting of any Palestinian citizen, and for any injuries that may result.

He added: The Israeli Government's decision to escalate official terrorism against the Palestinian people, and to perpetrate premeditated crimes with malicious forethought require a firm position by the signatory countries to the Geneva Convention toward the Israeli Government. It also requires a firm position by the U.S. and European governments which continue to extend aid to the Israeli Govenment, which is accustomed to killing Palestinians, confiscating their land, and building settlements on it.

'Arafat Receives Iraqi Justice Minister 4 Jan

LD0501210692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday evening in Tunis received the Iraqi minister of justice. During the meeting, the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, developments with regard to the Palestine issue, and the intifadah inside the occupied homeland were reviewed. The Iraqi minister of justice briefed the brother leader president Abu 'Ammar on the situation in Iraq in light of the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. For his part, the brother leader president asked the minister to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn.

Fatah Military Wing Pledges Armed Struggle

LD0701003792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 92

["Text" of statement issued by Palestine National Liberation Movement—Fatah, the military wing]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God Almighty has said: Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God; of them some have completed their vow, and some wait. But they have never changed in the least. [Koranic verse] God speaks the truth.

Our heroic Palestinian people, people of the revolution and armed struggle, people of the glorious intifadah against the Zionist occupation, people of the holy jihad and sacrifice, people of victory, masses of our struggling people. The Palestine National Liberation movement—Fatah launched the blessed revolution of our people in order to liberate its homeland and establish its independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Fatah has adopted from the beginning, all forms of struggle, foremost of which is the armed struggle, against the Zionist enemy. And has registered a history replete with heroism and military operations, from Ayla'un to Dalal al-Sahil, and from Savoy to the Khalisah. And its armed struggle never stopped for a moment; rather, it continued the struggle everywhere and at all times. Thus was the heroic Dimona operation at the beginning of the intifadah, through which the prince of martyrs, the prince of armed struggle—Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] announced that the intifadah will never ever stop the armed struggle.

And the operations continued at a rate that increased or decreased according to military conditions, and that which accompanies large-scale mass struggle, in the shade of the escalation of the intifadah and its extension to all parts of the occupied homeland.

The decision of the Palestinian leadership to participate in the political process was not and will never be a decision to drop the armed struggle or stop the intifadah, as some have tried to interpret it with a view to achieving the enemy's objective in stamping out the glorious intifadah of our people and its bold revolution under the slogan: "support for the Palestinian delegation or the Palestinian decision which requires participation in the political process," at a time when the young know before the old, that supporting the Palestinian decision, the decision of the brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], will only be through the escalation of the armed struggle, by more and more heroic military operations against the enemy, its soldiers, and the herds of its settlers, not by freezing the intifadah and the struggle through party politicization.

Masses of our heroic people.

We in the military wing of the Palestine National Liberation Movement—Fatah, stand behind the Palestinian decision. We stand behind it with daring heroic military operations, which Fatah revolutionaries carry out all over the State of Palestine, with determination to continue the struggle and the revolution and the intifadah, and the rejection of all calls to politicize the intifadah, whatever may be the source or basis of such calls, and to confront them by all means, because we see in these calls a serious political decision that does not accord with the historical phase through which our Palestinian cause is passing. Nor do they accord with Fatah's understanding and Fatah leadership, represented in the legitimate leadership and its institutions, and on its head, the leader, the symbol—Abu-'Ammar.

The Zionist enemy, after the Madrid conference, advanced further and further, its fascist repressive measures against the masses of our people throughout the regions of our Palestinian State, thus affirming its aggressive approach which rejects all the just Palestinian constants. In our view, the response to these measures will not be by running after politicization; rather, it can only be by escalating the armed struggle against the enemy and its settlers, and by developing the intifadah and carrying it from its state of freezing and liquefying to the state of blazing revolution. Without this, it would be impossible to realize our objectives and our legitimate rights.

Manors of our fighting people,

Nobody is unaware that the arena of the occupied homeland has become the only arena for revolution and struggle and direct work before our people to continue its revolution and struggle against the enemy and its settlers. And our people are quite aware that this arena is the key to escalating and continuing the struggle. The revolutionaries of our Fatah have proved through knives and Molotov cocktails and homemade [explosive] devices, that they can rightly hold this key and escalate the armed struggle until the enemy submits, and withdraws from the land of our occupied Palestinian State.

We, on the 27th anniversary of launching our movement, the launching of the first bullet against the Zionist enemy, pledge to our people to continue the armed struggle, through the close union of the masses of our people with our revolution, through the union of the stone and the gun in the face of the enemy and the face of politicization.

We, in the military wing of the Fatah Movement, as we stand in the face of all differences, and begin to lay the foundation of the national unity, fighting unity, on the basis of the fighting gun, the gun which is always brandished in the face of the occupation, its soldiers, and the herds of its settlers, [promise] that the struggle will never stop until our Palestinian state is established and until our Palestinian flag waves above the holy al-Aqsa mosque.

[Text] The prince of armed struggle [Abu- Jihad] laid down the foundation for the Palestinian military school. It is based on this guidance and light that we march, as do all of our revolutionaries in the occupied homeland, especially those being chased in the various regions of our occupied state, who deserve to be proud, and of whom we become more proud with every daring military operation they carry out against the soldiers and settlers of the enemy.

Manors of our heroic people: On the anniversary of our pioneering movement, the Fatah Movement, the movement of all the people, and with all our brave revolutionaries and activists, we declare that we are trustees of the Fatah doctrine and trustees of the armed struggle through which our movement has publicized itself through the bullets and the explosive devices and bombs. We pledge to our people that we will continue the armed struggle until our independent state has been established with holy Jerusalem as its capital, and that we will spare no effort to protect the unity of our Palestinian people wherever they may be, in the occupied homeland or in the diaspora. We pledge that the continuity of Fatah will always be as you have always known it—unionist. We will endeavor to join hands with all operative detachments on the Palestinian scene, to form the widest front in the face of our arrogant enemy, particularly at this decisive historic phase.

We swear by the blood of the martyrs that we march on their road and that a pledge is a pledge and an oath is an oath. We have made a pledge to our struggling people that the guns will remain brandished high in the face of the hateful occupation, and that we will draw the borders of our independent state with our blood.

Long live the 27th anniversary of launching our victorious revolution. Long live the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the legitimate and sole representative of our proud Palestinian people wherever they may be. Glory and eternity to the martyrs of our armed revolution. Respect and edification to the chased, the detainees, the wounded, and the activists.

The statement is signed by the Palestine National Liberation Movement's military wing in the State of Palestine.

OPEC Affairs

Indonesian Minister on 'Excess' Oil Output

BK0201101092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0922 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Medan, North Sumatera, Jan 02 (OANA-ANTARA)—Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita has deplored the decision taken by some OPEC countries such as Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to supply oil in excess of the market demand, causing a drop in oil prices to 17 U.S. dollars from 21 U.S. dollars a barrel by the end of 1991.

There should be good oil prices during this winter, Ginanjar said here on Thursday as he was about to leave for Saudi Arabia to perform minor pilgrimage.

Ginanjar said he would hold discussion with his Saudi Arabia counterpart Hisham Nazir about the decline in oil prices during his visit to Saudi Arabia.

He would also hold a discussion with his Nigerian counterpart, concurrently OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) president on the effort to raise oil prices.

Indonesia, which currently exports 1.4 million barrels of oil per day to Japan and other Asia-Pacific countries never supplied in excess of the market demand, he said.

Other OPEC member countries would not let oil prices further decline, Ginanjar said, adding that OPEC member countries would in the near future discuss the decline.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Maldives' Zaki Named SAARC Secretary General

BK0301100092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. Hussain Ibrahim Zaki of the Maldives has taken over as the next secretary genera. of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC. He succeeds Mr. K.K. Bhargava of India. This was officially announced in Kathmandu.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports of Nuclear Program

LD0601194292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Following reports carried by some British newspapers in the past few days to the effect that Algeria had acquired some material and had resorted to foreign assistance to carry out a military nuclear program, the Algerian Foreign Ministry has categorically denied these erroneous reports.

Ghozali 'Categorically' Denies Reports

LD0601234892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Speaking this evening during the "Club de la Presse" program on France's Europe 1 radio station, Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali categorically denied the reports published recently in the British paper THE SUNDAY TIMES claiming that Iraq has sent uranium and its know-how to Algeria for the production of an atomic bomb. Because this paper claims to have obtained its information from official sources, I would ask these sources either to furnish proof of what they are claiming or to retract it, the prime minister said.

He recalled that Algeria is a country which cooperates most extensively with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which regularly checks the operation of its reactors, and that it has a very clear agreement with this agency.

On the subject of why Algeria has not signed the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Mr. Ghozali replied that this was a different problem; just because we have not signed this treaty it does not mean that we are in the process of producing the atomic bomb, he said. I do not see why pressure is put on Algeria, which has never made a bomb, which is not in the process of producing one, and which has no program for producing bombs, to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty, while a country like Israel, which has 180 nuclear warheads and has not signed this same treaty, is not cross-questioned in the same way, he said.

Speaking on a completely different topic during this radio program, Prime Minister Ghozali expressed the view that the results of the first round of Algeria's legislative elections were something of a personal failure in that he was not able to achieve his aim of an undisputed election, but he added that he does not regret his action because one must respect the people.

On the subject of the Islamic state which would be established in Algeria if the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] victory is confirmed in the second round, Mr. Ghozali recalled that a majority in the assembly would not be enough to change the Constitution; only the president of the Republic can make such an initiative, he said. Furthermore, he described as exaggerated and at times a caricature the picture given in France of the situation in Algeria. Even if what is happening is not an easy path, these are the rules of the democratic game, and we have to respect them; the party which has the majority will enter the government.

Will the FIS be competent to handle the economic and social crisis which Algeria is currently experiencing? To this question, the Algerian prime minister replied that the FIS is quite capable of choosing competent people to run the country. As for the Army, it is not an army of putschists, he said, before specifying that it operates within a very specific institutional framework.

Paper Dismisses 'Alleged Discoveries'

LD0601174292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1634 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 6 (TANJUG)—The Algerian press today describe as a 'science fiction story' the allegations, published in the London weekly THE SUNDAY TIMES yesterday, according to which Algeria is secretly working on the production of the first 'Islamic atomic bomb,' in cooperation with Iraq.

The independent Algerian newspaper AL-WATAN says today that the British accusations are probably aimed at presenting Algeria as a 'danger to the world's peace' and consequently the object of a 'foreign intervention.'

THE SUNDAY TIMES, carried by a number of Algerian newspaper today [as received], said Iraq had allegedly sent over ten tonnes of natural uranium to Algeria last May before the UN inspection teams arrived.

The shipment was followed by an Iraqi team of experts who were supposed to work on a nuclear reactor, which would every three years produce two atomic bombs as strong as that which was thrown on Nagasaki in World War Two, as the British weekly specified.

AL-WATAN says that it cannot be a pure coincidence that the 'alleged discoveries' of the Anglo-Saxon press were published immediately after the first round of the parliamentary elections in Algeria, whose results indicate the possibility of creating an Islamic republic in the country.

AL-WATAN said that similar accusations were launched last spring in some American newspapers. The U.S. press at that time said Algeria intended to build an atomic bomb in Ain Oussera, where a nuclear reactor was being built in cooperation with China.

Both Algiers and Beijing denied the allegations, which proved completely groundless after the inspection by the International Agency for Atomic Energy, as AL-WATAN sets out.

Sharp accusations in the Anglo-Saxon press about the non-existent 'Islamic nuclear weapons' is all the more strange, bearing in mind that it has remained completely silent over 'Israel's atomic bomb which really does exist,' the Algerian paper concludes.

Egypt

Musa Says Continued Israeli Acts To Derail Talks

NC0601153492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that the Middle East peace process will not continue if Israel persists in adopting measures similar to the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories. His excellency said that Egypt desires the peace negotiations to continue but that it will not accept any further violations of the spirit of peace.

Musa added that Israel's officials are wrong if they imagine that they can do whatever they want in the occupied territories. He said he is confident that the UN Security Council, like the rest of the international community, will denounce Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Editorial Warns of Israel's 'Provocative Games'

NC0501060392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Under the headline "A Crafty Scheme To Thwart the Peace Talks," the AL-AKHBAR newspaper has said in its editorial to be published on 5 January that the decision by Yitzhaq Shamir's Israeli Government to expel 12 Palestinians from their homes only three days before the scheduled date for resuming the peace talks in Washington is not a surprising move because it is part and parcel of the scenario that Shamir and his comrades prepared once they found themselves being forcefully dragged to Madrid to take part in the international conference for peace in the Middle East. This is a scenario that forces the Arab sides themselves to withdraw from the talks due to a series of provocative measures which are expected to anger the Arab sides to such an extent to make them decide not to participate or continue negotiations with a party that does not try to hide its aggressive intentions.

AL-AKHBAR says: The only way to thwart Shamir's conspiracy is to practice self-control and be patient about all the games and maneuvers to which the Israeli Government resorts. The Arab delegations should also remain steadfast at the negotiating table regardless of all Israeli efforts to realize their objective of showing that the Arabs are the ones who reject peace.

AL-AKHBAR states that at this stage, the Arab side must not lose its nerve and must ignore all the provocative games that Israel is expected to play. The Arab side must also be satisfied at this point in time to reveal all the indiscriminate measures that Tel Aviv is using to destroy the talks by issuing statements and deceiving the U.S. and international media organs, so that the international community can realize the truth of the Israeli stand and which party is [word indistinct] peace.

The paper adds: The Zionist-Jewish media have for a long time relied on promoting the idea that the Arabs reject any talks which might lead to peaceful coexistence among the countries in the region and recognition of Israel's right to exist. It is now hoping to revive these kinds of claims in case its plot to push any Arab, particularly Palestinian, side to withdraw from the peace talks succeeds.

AL-AKHBAR concludes its editorial by saying that what is now needed is to thwart these schemes regardless of the price so that Shamir's weapon can instead strike its own home. [passage omitted]

Paper on U.S. 'New Understanding' in Peace Talks

NC0601075792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM comments on remarks by U.S. President George Bush and other U.S. officials that the United States would intervene if the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks reach an impasse. The newspaper says that these remarks demonstrate that the United States has reached a new understanding following the failure of the first round of Washington talks.

In today's editorial, the paper says that although the United States made this stand too late to save the first round of talks, it shows a renewed U.S. resolve to make the talks succeed.

The paper says, however, that it is worried that the U.S. awakening is merely designed to raise hopes and to encourage the Arabs to participate in the multilateral talks in Moscow. Progress in settling regional issues at the Moscow talks, the paper states, will not be possible unless efforts are made to make the Washington talks succeed.

The paper concludes by saying that the presence of all the parties concerned in Moscow could help rescue the bilateral Washington talks, and possibly by the collective will rather than the individual U.S. will.

Mubarak Receives al-Qadhdhafi Message From Envoy

NC0601160792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and personal envoy of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, at the presidential office in 'Abidin today.

Following the meeting, Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's representative to the Arab League, stated that al-Kharrubi delivered a message to President Mubarak from his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message, which comes in the context of the continuing consultations between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, deals with prominent current developments, particularly the Western accusations against Libya, matters connected

with the implementation of the Arab League resolution on this issue, and ways of resolving the crisis by international arbitration.

As for possible steps that Libya might take now, the Libyan representative to the Arab League said that the UN Security Council will discuss this issue and that Libya will await the results. Noting that his country had earlier asked the Security Council to investigate the accusations, he said it will be a good thing if the Security Council does this. He added that Libya has made several proposals, including forming an investigatory committee, and he noted that if the Security Council forms such a committee it will have met Libya's request.

The Libyan representative to the Arab League asserted that Col. al-Kharrubi offered thanks and appreciation to President Mubarak on behalf of the leader of the Libyan revolution and the Libyan people for Egypt's efforts and assistance to Libya in this regard.

Libya's al-Kharrubi Departs 6 Jan

NC0601162792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, left Cairo for Libya this afternoon following a one-day visit to Cairo during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations, saw him off at the airport.

Libya

Commentary Scores Anti-Libyan 'State Terrorism'

LD0501175792 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Commentary by local affairs editor]

[Text] Tripoli 5 Jan (JANA)—The whole world is, now, aware that the sticking of the regrettable Pan Am aircraft incident to Libya is merely part of a series of excuses and pretexts which prove the continued exercise of official state terrorism against Libya by a super power and the exploitation of this pretext to threaten the security and safety of a small country like Libya.

The world recalls and knows the interventions, show of force and pressures by the Reagan administration and the threats of aggression until effective aggression took place during crisis of the Gulf of Sidra, which the world knows that it is situated within the Libyan territorial waters and the Gulf of Sidra is one of internal gulfs.

As we, and the world, were about to leave that unjust confrontation and deliberate state terrorism against Libya, America invented the issue of the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory claiming that it was a chemical weapons' factory. Although the world knows that states have the right to manufacture poison gas in their factories and what is prohibited is the use of that poison gas. America knows this. Moreover, America, and the world, know that the Zionists have an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. Yet America, as a superpower, did not take any action towards that. Moreover, America itself owns factories for weapons of mass destruction but it looks for an excuse for the continuation of its terrorism against Libya. Despite all that, Libya exerted self restraint and respected its position within the international community as it showed the world that the al-Rabitah factory was merely a pharmaceutical plant.

As soon as we came out of this crisis, in which the world appreciated Libya's understanding and desire to show the truth about those false claims, we were suddenly landed with the affair of the Pan Am aircraft incident which took place, with the advent of 1992, four years ago, as another excuse. America, and the world, know that the passing of four years, which is a long time, may not be possible for anyone to believe the alleged witnesses or any material evidence or other proof for the passing of this long period would only allow that who looks for excuses and pretexts to continue his terrorism and tyranny against a smaller state like Libya and for the continuation of the series of official terrorism he would do anything to falsify and distort evidence, testimonies and proof. This period is enough to provide a person and brainwash him.

The world as well as America know that the regrettable Pan Am incident belongs to the page of the old world, the Gulf war, the hostages war, the raids against Libya...to the shooting down of the Libyan civilian aircraft to the Korean, Iranian, Italian and French aircraft. We thought that that page was turned over for ever with its hot and cold wars and idols from Brezhnev to Reagan etc and that the world was embarking on a new era where security, peace, equality, development, peaceful coexistence, democracy and the language of dialogue prevail. But we, and the world, are astonished that the big countries chose only one single incident amongst all others hence use the Pan Am affair as another pretext for the continuation of the series of official state terrorism which America still exercises against Libya. The big countries which enjoy the veto power went beyond that conducting injustice, tyranny and oppression against Libya, threatening its security and killing its children and nationals. This disappointed smaller and oppressed nations, who were hoping that the major powers would fulfil their hopes and aspirations by closing the register of the old world, with all its calamities, and starting a new page and not to search for old excuses for domination over and terrorism against smaller nations, endangering their security and hindering their development process and the treatment of Libya nowadays is a case in point.

If we wish to leave this hollow situation and if we are really sincere about the realisation of a world where peace, security and coexistence prevail, we should sit down together as a civilised world and deal with our problems and issues which are threatening the security of

all of us and find solutions to them including the determination of the causes of terrorism and their treatment, the problems affecting the reconstruction, development and progress of the world and the safety and security of mankind in it. And to accept the Libyan historic proposal prepared by Libya for submission to a special session of the United Nations for debate and approval. This proposal and its realisation programme guarantees the achievement of the security, peace, progress and stability of the world in this new era of its history. This shows the desire of Libya, despite the official state terrorism imposed on it, for the states, peoples and nations to enter the era of security, peace, development, and progress if we genuinely want peace and security. However, the continuation of terrorism imposed by bigger powers on smaller nations will return us to that painful page of the old world where countries which conduct official terrorism will not stop finding excuses and pretexts to carry on their series of injustice, tyranny and terrorism like what is going on now against the small Libyan state.

Mauritania

Government Recognizes Russian Federation

LD3012162791 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued in Nouakchott on 29 December; read "in part" by announcer]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Mauritania's Government was officially notified of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's letter to the UN secretary general saying that his country, in agreement with the Commonwealth of Independent States member states, is replacing the former USSR with regard to all that concerns the rights and obligations of the latter.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania's Government, after noting these changes, has decided that its ambassador in Moscow is now accredited to the Russian Federation. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania's Government hopes that the political, economic, and cultural ties which linked it with the Soviet Union will be consolidated and strengthened with the Russian Federation.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Details Duties of Transitional Assembly

EA0401224492 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, convened a news conference today at noon at Friendship Hall in which he reviewed the main characteristics of the fifth constitutional act of 1991 on the transitional national assembly.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar said that the act confirmed the revolution's seriousness in implementing all decisions and recommendations of the conferences so far convened, just as it also confirmed its seriousness about handing power to the masses. He said that the act is considered an important achievement of the two years of the revolution's life. The fifth act pointed out that the transitional national assembly will undertake constitutional and legislative tasks entrusted to it in accordance with the laws of this act until the national assembly is elected. The assembly will be formed by RCC decree, and the decree will determine the number of the members and their appointment, giving consideration to geographical, group, and social representation. [Paris AFP in French at 2110 GMT on 4 January in a Khartoum-datelined report on al-Bashir's news conference adds: "The head of the Sudanese junta, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, stated today that the transitional national assembly that will soon be set up will be made up of 300 members including the officials of the country and representatives of the various political leanings in existence since before the junta came to power."]

The act also stated that RCC members, except for the chairman; federal ministers, and [state] governors and the heads of the popular committees at the state level, will be members of the assembly by virtue of their posts and that it is permissible to appoint any employee of state bodies a member of the assembly.

The act defined the place where the assembly will convene its meetings as the official seat in Omdurman. The act dealt with the tasks of the assembly, which are to endorse national plans and programs, as well as the projects of federal laws, in addition to the national budget estimates. The tasks of the assembly include endorsing instruments for ratifying international treaties and giving advice and counsel to the RCC or to the head of the state concerning any issue referred to the assembly, in addition to overseeing the performance of federal executives, submitting recommendations in this regard to the head of state, and participating in general mobilization for official and popular work.

The act also reviewed the conditions for membership and how this membership is lost. It pointed out that members of the assembly will be working on a voluntary basis and that the RCC may decide to pay them. The RCC will provide necessary privileges, according to regulations, in order for them to discharge their responsibilities.

The act explained that half its members will form a quorum for convening the assembly, that the assembly's decrees will be issued by the consent of the majority of those attending, and that the assembly's meetings and its deliberations will be made public, excerpt in situations when the chairman of the assembly deems it necessary they be otherwise. The act pointed out that the assembly members will express their opinions freely and responsibly, and observe the statutes of the regulations.

The act dealt with the assembly's legislative and monetary procedures and the implementation of temporary laws and protocols. The act explained that it is possible for the RCC to dissolve the transitional national assembly provided that another assembly to succeed it is named within 60 days from the date of dissolution.

Justice Ministry Clarifies Assembly's Role

EA0401213092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] The office of the Ministry of Justice and the attorney general has issued a statement on interpretations concerning the fifth constitutional act issued by the Revolution Command Council on the establishment of a transitional national assembly.

The statement clarified that the tasks of the assembly include overseeing the federal authority derived from [word indistinct] positive concepts in legislative institutions in other countries. The statement interpreted the establishment of the council as transitional until the completion of the political system. It will have a speaker, a deputy speaker, and three leaders [ruwwad]. The tasks of the assembly can be summarized as making initiatives to draft bills, approving the draft budget and the ratification of international treaties, and having the right to express its opinions. It will also have the right to oversee all legislation issued by the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, in addition to overseeing the executive authority [words indistinct].

Al-Bashir Sends al-Qadhdhafi Note on Integration

EA3012221591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 29th December (SUNA)—The leader of the Libyan September Revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, received a written message from the chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, dealing with bilateral relations in the context of integration between the two countries. The message was delivered to President [as received] al-Qadhdhafi by the deputy wali [governor] of Khartoum State Col Yusuf 'Abd al-Fatah [Mahmud] who returned from Libya Saturday [28 December], after participating in the ninth session of the follow-up and coordination committee for unitary work of the revolutionary dialogue forum which [was] held in the Libyan Jamahiriyah recently.

Accords Seek Increased Integration With Libya

EA2412211091 Khartoum SUNA in English 0953 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Dec (SUNA)—The Sudanese National Congress Secretariat and Libyan Secretariat of the General People's Congress have agreed to found an integration [as received] between the political systems of the two countries to be in harmony with the ongoing integration efforts in the different fields.

The agreement was made during a recent visit to Libya by a delegation from the Congress's Secretariat headed by Brigadier Hasan Hamadayn in the period 13th-20th December.

The deputy secretary of the Sudanese Congress' Secretariat, al-Shafan Ahmad, said an agreement to expertise and information besides [words indistinct].

[Plans for] joint training sessions were also finalized during the visit. He said the visit, made at an invitation extended by the Libyan People's Congress, has achieved all its purposes. The delegation has been acquainted with the Libyan People Congresses.

The delegation met with many Libyan officials, Ahmad said, pointing to their meeting with the member of the Libyan historical leadership of the September revolution, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, which dealt with the bilateral relations, Arab and international.

Chadian Delegation Meets With RCC's al-Tahir

EA0401224092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] A delegation from fraternal Chad headed by Mr. Hasan Fadl, adviser to the Chadian president, arrived in the country this morning. He carries a letter from the Chadian president to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. The delegation was received at the airport by Presidential Affairs Minister Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz.

Meanwhile, the delegation met with Major Gen. Ahmad al-Tahir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, at his office at the Republican Palace. The Chadian envoy pointed out that the situation was stable in Chad after the routing of the rebellion plot at Bol, near Lake Chad, in the western part of Chad. In addition, the Sudanese Embassy in Ndjamena said that all members of the Sudanese community in Chad were well and in good health.

Tunisia

Tunis Condemns Israeli Deportation of Palestinians

LD0401215192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on 4 January; read by announcer]

[Text] Israel has once again deported Palestinian nationals from their homeland under flimsy pretexts which have no legal basis. This operation falls within the framework of the plan which Israel still obstinately insists on implementing, and with which it challenges the international community, despite all the efforts made to boost the peace process aimed at finding a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue.

Tunisia reiterates its condemnation of these measures which represent a disregard for the will of the international community, a violation of all UN laws, and a new Israeli attempt to undermine the peace efforts to which all the Arab parties, including the PLO, have seriously responded, proceeding from their attachment to peace and their eagerness to provide opportunities to find a peaceful and just solution to the Middle East issue, and to contribute to building a new world order based on justice, fairness, and cooperation among peoples.

Bahrain

Minister Proposes Iranian Commercial Center

LD0701111492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Yesterday Bahrain proposed the establishment of an Iranian commercial center in Bahrain, for the Persian Gulf. Bahrain's Minister of Commerce and Agriculture Habib Qasim, reiterating his country's desire to promote commercial relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bahrain, declared: The proposal is aimed at assisting the further expansion of commercial and economic cooperation between the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Oman

Saudi Minister Arrives With Message for Sultan

JN0401153792 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Saudi Education Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir arrived in the country at noon today carrying a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Al-Khuwaytir was welcomed upon his arrival by Yahya Bin-Mahfuz al-Munthari, education minister and president of Sultan Qabus University, and 'Abd-al-Muhsin Salih al-Balla', Saudi ambassador to Oman.

Qatar

Accord Reached With Iran on Oil, Gas Ventures

LD0601181692 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Doha, Jan. 6, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar have agreed to make joint investments in such fields as oil and gas as part of their efforts to expand mutual cooperation.

The agreement was reached during six rounds of talks between a visiting Iranian delegation and Qatari officials led by Minister of Transport and Communications 'Abdallah Bin-Salih al-Mana'.

The 20-man Iranian delegation was led by Deputy Commerce Minster Mr. Shariatmadar.

The Iranian delegation had a separate meeting today with head of Qatar's Chamber of Commerce Shaykh Muhammad Jasim Bin-Hamdam Al Thani who called for expansion of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.

An exclusive Iranian trade fair is in progress in Doha with products from some 200 Iranian firms on display.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Denounces Israeli Deportation Order

LD0601155192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon, at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. In a statement to SPA after the meeting, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir said that at the beginning of the meeting the council reviewed a brief report on the most outstanding Arab and international developments in the past few hours, and followed with particular interest the progress of events concerning the Palestine issue in light of the efforts being made for peace.

In that context, and on the basis of what has been confirmed by diplomatic and political sources through the media regarding Israel's expulsion of 12 Palestinian citizens from the occupied territories and the Israeli Government's endorsement of that measure, which is in violation of all international norms and values, and on the basis of the instructions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Council of Ministers expressed its condemnation of the unjust behavior of expelling the 12 Palestinians from their land and homes, which constitutes an obstacle to the persistent efforts to commence peace talks. The minister of information added that later His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz studied with the council some local issues submitted for discussion, looked into the business listed on the agenda, and issued decisions concerning them, including:

1. On the basis of the letter from the minister of finance and national economy on setting up a board of directors for the Agricultural Bank, the council approved the following:

(a) The reappointment of Dr 'Abdallah Bin-Thunayyan al-Thunayyan as president of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Bank;

(b) The appointment of Muhammad Bin-'Ali Makki, Dr 'Abdallah Bin- 'Abdallah al-'Ubayd, 'Abd al-Rahman Bin-Ibrahim al-Muhanna, and Rashid Bin-Mubrak Al-Murayshid as members of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Bank for three years from the date when this decree comes into force. [passage omitted]

Syrian Joint Committee Delegates Arrive in Riyadh

LD0601111792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 6 Jan—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', [Syrian] Economy and Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, and [Syrian] Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini, arrived in Riyadh this morning to

attend the second session of the Saudi-Syrian ministerial joint committee which will begin its meetings later today. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Speech Notes Common Goals

JN0601204592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The second round of the Joint Syrian-Saudi Committee proceedings got underway at the conference palace in Riyadh this evening. The Syrian side was led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Saudi side by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Shar' gave a speech which appreciated Saudi Arabia's positive role in the Arab and Islamic arenas. He noted that bilateral ties are growing thanks to directives from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd-Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz. These relations, he added, provide solid foundations promoting the Arab position against current challenges.

Backed by UN resolutions, al-Shar' asserted, our nation is capable of defending its security and interests and regaining its rights and occupied territories, above all Jerusalem. The Israeli rulers, he added, are in error if they think that we went to the peace conference to suit their distorted notions of peace and their illusions about continued occupation. The battle for peace has unmasked the false nature of the Israeli rulers' protestations over their concern for peace and their tactics to skirt the requirements of a fair and comprehensive peace acceptable to the world community. As we wage the battle for peace, it is most important that world public opinion learn that the Israeli rulers' prevarications and refusal to withdraw from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip—as called for by the UN resolutions underlying the peace conference—constitute a defiance of the international community as well as the Arab states concerned, al- Shar' stated. If there are sweet and bitter lessons to be learned by the Arabs and their friends and foes from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and from its liberation, these are that the bitterness will go only when Israel's occupation of all occupied Arab territories are removed and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination are assured so as to bring in security and prosperity to this important and sensitive part of the world.

Al-Shar's said the Syrian-Saudi Joint Committee seeks to advance the cherished goals and common interests of the two brotherly countries. Close cooperation between the two counties, he added, should help the advancement and stability of both and promote regional security and stability. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Letter From Saudi King

JN0501192692 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

The letter is in reply to the letter his highness Shaykh Zayid recently sent to the custodian of the two holy mosques, within the framework of the ongoing consultations between the two leaders in the interest of the peoples of the region, and in service of their common causes.

Saudi Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir delivered the letter when Shaykh Zayid received him in Abu Dhabi this evening.

Saddam Husayn Receives Officials on Army Day

JN0601201592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1935 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] On the glorious occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Armed Forces, the leader president, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today received Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

On the same glorious occasion, the president received RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, the vice president; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, the prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, the deputy prime minister; Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the minister of defense; and Mizban Khadr Hadi.

His Excellency also received Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

His Excellency also received Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, and Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan [two former defense ministers]. He also received the members of the Armed Forces General Command and the military advisers at the Presidency.

They all wished the leader president a long life, God willing, to continue his leadership of the victorious armies of right, the armies of jihad and construction, including our great Iraqi people and valiant Armed Forces. They renewed the pledge to forge ahead and with pride to keep flying high the banner: God is great.

Addressing those who came to congratulate him, his great people, and his valiant Army, the leader president said: The value of true patriotism is not limited to material aspects alone. The key to our country, Iraq, always has been, and always will remain in the hands of the people and their Army, despite all enemy attempts and despite all that has happened.

The leader president beseeched God Almighty to bestow constant pride on glorious Iraq, to keep its Army developed and capable, and that our people may remain at that high level of awareness.

Al-Majid Warns Armed Forces Against Treason

JN0601154192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1447 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has warned that the enemies nowadays are harboring illusions against Iraq, illusions which are no more than confused dreams.

Addressing the Armed Forces today in an interview with AL- QADISIYAH, Al-Majid said: Beware of treachery and treason by the Zionist entity, Iran, and the Arab reactionaries are being exposed. He added: What is taking place in the Arab arena at present has further exposed them.

Al-Majid said caution and alertness are a must because any neglect will affect the nature of the confrontation with our enemies. The Americans and Zionists will seek any means to break the spine of the Iraqis.

Al-Majid said: Iraq does not want war. Iraq has never sought war, whether in al-Qadisiyah or in the Mother of Battles. But if Almighty God wishes it to take place once again, this will be our destiny.

'Ali Hasan al-Majid said that two days ago, he held talks with the parties of the Kurdistan Front. He stated that if these parties are promised some kind of a deal, they would not take it. He recalled what took place from 15-16 January last year, the night of the aggression against Iraq until 4 April last year, as well as the chapters of treachery and treason that followed.

Al-Majid explained that during the military aggression by 33 countries under the United States and Israel, Iran made plans to make the chapters of trechery and treason have a broader impact than the air operations and the ground battle.

Discusses Army Preparations

JN0601140292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1337 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, defense minister and Revolution Command Council member, has said the Mother of Battles is not yet over and that the magnitude of the conspiracy against Iraq requires that the Army be prepared in accordance with the new course and in a manner that corresponds to the magnitude of the conspiracy.

In an interview with the AL-THAWRAH chief editor today, the defense minister said: The Mother of Battles was a great victory in terms of the major psychological awakening it has given rise to in the dimension of the jihad carried out by all Iraqis and mujahidin.

He added: The forces of treachery and aggression and the U.S.- led coalition forces—with all the resources, funds, and technology at their disposal—have failed to defeat Iraq. He stressed that they could not have been able to face the Iraqi Army in a direct battle if it were not for the treachery of the treacherous ones. These included, first of all, the Arab rulers and the Arab capitals in the countries from which the aggression was launched, regrettably, with the participation of some Arab armies.

The defense minister pointed out that the immortal battle—the Mother of Battles—and its standards cannot be specified, because what has happened to Iraq and the Iraqis and their Army do not follow any standard. He said: The mere fact that the individual was able to hold

on and report to his military unit and not drop his weapon means that that individual ranks high on the ladder of jihad.

He added that the Americans in particular and the other coalition forces, including Israel, were treacherous. He said these people are experienced in the field of treachery, referring to the fact that Iraq accepted a cease-fire in the Mother of Battles and began withdrawal within two days of 26 February, as suggested by the aggressors, and that an official announcement to this effect was made.

He said: Treachery continued with all its dirty attributes to murder the Iraqis. I was in the battle that day, and it was an occasion in which one cannot always have the chance to live. I have seen with pride the soldiers withdrawing under heavy fire.

He added: What we lost in the early chapters of the Mother of Battles has not been much, and we have statistics on this. Nor have we lost much in the chapter of treachery and treason that was led by Iran. I doubt that Iran was not involved alongside the Americans in the 33-state aggression.

The defense minister asserted that like all treacherous ones, Iran was waiting and planning for the chapter of treachery and treason. Therefore, he added, it pushed tens of thousands of people across the border beginning 2 March 1991. It had sent people across the border without being noticed before that date. But on 2 and 3 March, it become apparent that Iran had employed all of its available resources to finish Iraq, he said.

The defense minister pointed out President Saddam Husayn's role in building the Iraqi Army, especially after Iran launched its aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980, and particularly after it became clear in 1986 that the Americans were plotting against Iraq and its sovereignty when they provided Iran with facilities and capabilities to occupy the al-Faw triangle.

He explained that what is required is the building of an able-bodied, small army to perform two basic duties. The first is a pan-Arab duty, as this army is part of the nation and its decisions. The second is a national duty, where it works to maintain the security of Iraq's border, especially in light of the treacherous Iranian neighbor's violations after the 30-state aggression against Iraq and its continuing violations.

He said that it is also required that the army take part in reconstruction, as the army prepares and turns out skillful individuals and professionals, so that we can rebuild Iraq and rise with it to transcend the effects of the two Iranian and U.S.-NATO-Zionist wars or aggressions.

He added that when the army is proportional to the size and capabilities of the country, it would be able to contribute more to other civilian sectors. He indicated that the army undoubtedly contains technical, skillful, and creative manpower, referring to the army's role in 1989 and 1990 during the reconstruction campaigns.

The defense minister reviewed the contributions of the Iraqi Army, established in 1921, as it today celebrates the anniversary day on the national and pan-Arab levels and its effective role in Syria, occupied Palestine, Jordan, and Egypt, where it has offered martyrs who sacrificed their lives to the Arab homeland.

'Izzat Ibrahim Lays Wreath on Martyr's Monument

JN0601204892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Deputizing for Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander on chief of the Armed Forces, Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today laid a wreath on the Martyr's Monument on the 71st anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Iraqi Army.

Following the wreath laying ceremony, the leader president's representative read the al-Fatiha [the opening chapter in the Koran] for the souls of the virtuous martyrs.

Staff Gen. 'Izzat Ibrahim was received and seen off by the Baghdad mayor, the Army chief of staff, and the head of the Defense Ministry's Public Affairs Department.

Article Refutes SANA Report of Executions

JN0601165092 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Jan 92 p 8

[Article signed by the pseudonym Abu-Sarhan: "Iraq Is Saddam Husayn's Home"]

[Text] The SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY [SANA] yesterday carried the following report: "A group of Iraqi military and civilian personnel from the Mosul, al-Anbar, and Salah al-Din Governorates have been executed." Let us discuss this issue from both humanitarian and logical angles.

I am one of the sons of these three governorates, and the son of all Iraqi governorates. As much as I know myself and my tribe, which belongs to one of these governorates, I can assert that the swords of the sons of these three governorates will be the first to behead whoever is deluded into considering causing a harm to the land or people of Iraq. As for the Syrian regime's agents who violate Iraq's sanctities, to behead them we will unsheathe the sword of Dhu-al-Fiqar, of whose sharp sword the Umayyads tasted and who recognize it more than any other people in the world.

If we wish, although we are certain that the matter does not merit a long pause, to deal with the matter from a logical angle, we should note that these three governorates have distinctively been called the loyal governorates during the chapter of treachery and treason. Moreover, any Iraqi cannot be but for all of Iraq. Suffice it to say

that these three governorates pride themselves in the fact that their sons are either leaders who lead a great country to the shore of safety, officers in their valiant army who dedicated their lives to defending the sacred national soil, or martyrs who went to heaven after performing their duty and carrying out the trust.

As for the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY's reference to the car explosion in Baghdad, we and the entire world know who the perpetrators of such explosions in Lebanon and Baghdad are. It suffices here to recall the Baghdad International Airport explosions and our pilgrims and children who were martyred in the airport incident. One of the rules of criminal behavior says that the criminal returns to the scene of the crime. This is a clear indication of what we have said. The Saudi newspaper AL-NADWAH, "confirming" the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY's allegations, yesterday claimed that the "explosion in Baghdad took place not far from one of the hideouts of the Iraqi president." Needless to say, the major problem of Iraq's imperialist and Zionist enemies is that they do not understand our way of thinking and behavior. Had they sought the assistance of an Iraqi peasant from southern or northern Iraq, he would have explained to them how we the Iraqis behave.

Unlike them, Saddam Husayn does not hide in dens like rats in the darkness. Saddam Husyan, amid the darkest circumstances during the 30-state aggression, used to visit and inquire about his people, and visited the presidential palace one hour after its bombardment in order to be close to his soldiers. He also used to visit the battle fronts when the fierce war with Iran was raging. You can tell a man from the way he lives. Saddam Husayn does not live in hotels, as peninsula princes do during their libertine tours in the West, where hotels offer them pleasures and red nights. It suffices Saddam to have Iraq as his home.

Text of 'Arafat's Cable to Saddam Husayn

JN0601190492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a cable of thanks from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in reply to the cable sent by his excellency to him on the occasion of the Palestinian revolution's anniversary.

Following is the text of the cable:

With great gratitude and fraternal appreciation, I received your fraternal congratulations on the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. It reflects the sincere brotherly solidarity that you emphasized in your congratulatory cable on that important occasion and manifests the genuine and stable pan-Arab stance of sisterly Iraq, its steadfast people, and their leadership which strongly supports the just cause of our people and their heroic national resistance.

On behalf of the Palestinian Arab people and the PLO Executive Committee, and in my name, I extend to your excellency, your esteemed government, and your fraternal people the sincerest sentiments of thanks and appreciation as our victorious Palestinian revolution begins its 28th year and as our militant people who are steadfast on the holy land of steadfastness, the land of Palestine, are more determined than ever to continue along the path of revolution and popular resistance with a strong will and a unified national determination, and with an entrenched faith in the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and with the support of all free and honorable people of our nation until the attainment of victory by the elimination of Israeli occupation of their land and shrines and the restoration of their inalienable national rights to return and set up their independent state, whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

Upon this glorious opportunity, our Palestinian Arab people are hopeful and confident that their nation will be able to heal its wounds and overcome its differences in order to confront the current and future challenges with a unified voice and ranks to enhance the Arab say and continue its immortal march in building a bright future for its generations and to spread its cultural and human message. The realization of this sublime objective at this crucial stage through which our people are passing is considered the greatest victory for our people and supports their steadfastness and their confidence that victory and liberation of the first qiblah [Jerusalem] and the third holiest mosque from the Israeli occupation is inevitable .

I repeat my deep thanks, wishing your excellency good health and happiness, and wishing the fraternal Iraqi people success in restoring their health and strength so as to continue their great contribution in defending the dignity and future of our nation, and revolution until victory.

Together and side by side until victory and to pray in the liberated Jerusalem with God's help.

Government-Kurdish Talks Said To Be Extended

NC0201123592 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 2 (AFP)—Kurdish representatives and Iraqi officials have extended their talks here to resolve a 10-week standoff between the two sides in northern Iraq, sources close to the Kurds disclosed Thursday.

Kurdistan Front delegates have been making progress in their talks and have decided to extend them beyond the initial December 30 deadline, the sources said. But they did not know how much longer the delegates would stay in the Iraqi capital before returning to northern areas. The group reportedly arrived here on December 25.

The talks are aimed at ending a dispute that erupted in late October when the government accused Kurdish authorities in the north of failing to guarantee security for its officials. In ensuing tension and shelling, 200,000

Kurds fled to mountain and highland areas and the government blocked supplies of food and fuel.

The Kurds termed the move an embargo, but Baghdad said it was stopping supply trucks to protect the drivers' safety. Large numbers of Kurds have returned home and some food and fuel has been allowed to pass to the north as tension dropped in recent weeks.

Deadlock Creates Risk of Violence

NC0701083292 Paris AFP in English 0754 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 7 (AFP)—A deadlock in negotiations between Baghdad and Kurdish leaders has created a renewed risk of violence in northern Kurdish regions, sources close to the Kurdistan Front said Tuesday.

But the risk was still slight and the eight-party Kurdistan Front could use economic means to overcome what they describe as an Iraqi Government blockade against them, the sources said.

A Kurdish delegation went to Baghdad on December 25 in a bid to end tension that began in late October between the two sides.

The government accused the Kurds then of failing to guarantee the security of its representatives and employees in the north. Shelling ensued and up to 200,000 Kurds reportedly fled to highland areas.

The government also prevented vehicles with fuel and food from entering the north, but said this was a measure to protect drivers' security.

The climate improved last month. Some trucks started to enter the north again and negotiations to end the tension seemed to be making progress.

But the source said the talks hit deadlock last week because the government insisted on sending the army, its security officials and Ba'th Party representatives to the northern areas.

Summing up the situation, a source close to the Front said: "I see no lifting of the blockade. There is a possibility of a military action, but it is still remote."

Kurdish Leader Talabani Praises Operations

NC0301151692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Within the framework of his discussions about our people's blessed uprising against the 'Aflaqite regime, Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has recently highlighted the role of our heroic strugglers, especially in the marshlands. Talabani was addressing a group of our Shiite and Sunni revolutionaries in northern Iraq.

[Words indistinct] the PUK leader affirmed the need to unite the ranks of the uprising. He called for brotherhood and love between revolutionaries in the south and north, and rejection of [word indistinct] the fragmentation methods between the Sunnis and Shiites, which the begrudging Saddamite regime has begun to spread [words indistinct].

Talabani praised the operations our revolutionaries are carrying out in the marshlands. He said: What our Arab brothers are tolerating in the southern regions is something very great which, perhaps, other groups would not have tolerated.

Reportage of Government, Opposition Clashes

Helicopter Downed in al-'Amarah

NC0501070292 Paris AFP in English 0431 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus, Jan 5 (AFP)—Shiite Muslim rebels in southern Iraq recently killed 25 Iraqi Army officers and shot down a government helicopter in fighting in the south-eastern province of al-'Amarah, an opposition group said here Saturday.

The Supreme Assembly of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution [SAIRI], headed by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, said in a statement that "the popular forces, notably made up of tribes from al-'Amarah province, have in recent days repelled an Iraqi Army attack and organised a counter-attack."

The statement said the rebels had "inflicted huge losses in men and equipment on the regime's army."

It said that in addition to the 25 officers killed, the shooting down of the helicopter had resulted in the death of its pilot, an army captain.

Shiite insurgents have a stronghold in the marshlands of al-'Amarah, near the border with Iran. Government helicopters often overfly the region, but there have been no reports from other sources of fighting there recently.

100 Saddam 'Mercenaries' Said Killed

NC0501151192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Coinciding with the increasing popular anger by our people in Mosul Governorate, and in solidarity with the position of the inhabitants of [name indistinct] in the face of the 'Aflaqite spite, our revolutionaries from the tribes in the areas adjacent to the marshlands in the south continue to confront reckless Saddam's mercenaries and to deal successive blows to his humiliated remnants.

In this respect, our forces made up of tribesmen from al-'Amarah Governorate have lately attacked the 'Aflaqites in (al-'Adl) and engaged them in a ferocious clash. As a result, our struggling popular forces took full command of (al-'Adl). Our heroes managed to kill more than 100 of Saddam's mercenaries, wounded several others, and seized quantities of weapons and military

equipment. Their control of the region lasted from midnight until the next morning.

It should be recalled that 80 persons from Saddam's military units have joined the ranks of our heroic mujahidin, out of their honest feeling that they should stand beside their brother heroes to continue the march of the great struggle by our revolutionary people until Saddam, the enemy of our people, and his humiliated mercenaries are eliminated.

Ammunition Dump Reportedly Destroyed

LD0501111692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] A report from Iraq indicates that forces opposed to the regime of that country destroyed a major Army ammunition dump in the Baghdad suburbs on 31 December. The explosion killed several soldiers on guard duty at that site.

The Patriotic Radio of Kurdistan added: During clashes in the Thawrah suburb of Baghdad between opposition and Iraqi regime forces, four Iraqi security agents were killed.

The same report continues: The theft of privately owned automobiles has become routine in Baghdad with the direct involvement of officials and state and military organizations. According to witnesses several cars were stolen by agents of the military command and high-ranking officials of the Iraqi regime.

Regime Shells Kifri

NC0501164792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] The town of Kifri and nearby areas continue to come under attack. The authorities are using artillery, mortars, and heavy machine guns.

Attack Launched on Air Force Command

NC0701080592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT today reports that Iraqi opposition forces, in coordination with a number of senior Iraqi officers, last night waged an armed attack on the Air Force command in Baghdad during a meeting of the senior command officers and security and intelligence officials directly under Saddam's Husayn command.

The paper cites unnamed reliable sources as reporting that Air Force Commander Muzahim Musa'ib and his deputy were injured and that Brigadier General Muhyi-al-Din al-Hasan, from the intelligence service, and four of his aides were killed. Three Air Force officers were also killed in the attack.

The sources mentioned that a similar operation took place on 5 January in al-Diwaniyah Governorate. A number of political and military officials, including Abu-Hamad, secretary of the Ba'th Party branch in the region, and his aide, were killed or wounded.

Regime Reportedly Kills Karbala' Poet

NC0501165592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Iraqi poet 'Adnan Hamdan al-Qubaysi has become another victim of Saddam's terrorism. Reckless Saddam's mercenaries have recently violated the privacy of the home of poet 'Adnan Hamdan al-Qubaysi, which is located in the holy Governorate of Karbala'. The poet was martyred in front of his wife and children. After the 'Aflaqite henchmen killed him, they cut the poet's body to pieces in front of his wife and children, then plundered everything in the house.

Al-Qubaysi is one of our greatest poets and an opponent of the Saddamite regime. He was dismissed from from his job and hunted down by the 'Aflaqites [words indistinct] unjustly.

Talabani's 'Gunmen' Allegedly Stealing Oil

JN0501184392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] The competent authorities at the Oil Ministry have shipped a large amount of various kinds of fuel to the governorates which make up the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan. However, some Kurdish party officials seized large quantities of oil, dispensed a limited amount of this oil to their relatives and acquaintances, and sold the remainder on the black market, thus depriving some areas in Kurdistan of this oil.

Under these harsh weather circumstances, the residents of Halabjah reported to Kurdish parties and made it clear to them that they are experiencing hard conditions. They were compelled to use tree branches for heating and cooking purposes. They asked the Kurdish party officials to provide them with the fuel quotas allocated for them by the state, but to no avail.

A reliable source belonging to Jalal Talabani's group said that there are checkpoints manned by gunmen belonging to Jalal Talabani's group, among other groups, who stop the tankers carrying various kinds of fuel before they arrive in al-Sulaymaniyah, and seize the largest quantities of fuel and sell it to citizens at high prices, exploiting their dire need for fuel during this season.

Saddam, Trade Minister on Food Rationing Report

JN3012182391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has taken cognizance of a report sent to him by Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih. The report, which evaluates the system of food rationing in Iraq, was prepared by a

team from the International School-Harvard Group. The president has commented on the report as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

May God bless the men of the Trade Ministry, the faithful men who have carried out their duties toward their people under the most difficult and complicated circumstances and during the darkest nights we have ever experienced. Since then, however, a luminous moon given by God the Almighty has appeared; it will light the path of future generations and grant them their due status and influence. You have honored us and yourselves against those who are searching for ways to drag our people backward, even if it is only as little back as the extent of a needlepoint. But they had to admit the facts. Thus, the mujahidin are imposing the bright fact, which is full of faith, even against those who go so far as to distort tabulations. It has become clear that jihad and patience bring fruit, God willing. Give glad tidings to those who patiently preserve. [preceding sentence Koranic verse] God is great.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih sent a message to President Saddam Husayn about the report prepared by the team from the International School-Harvard Group with regard to the system of food rationing in Iraq. The message says:

The respected leader president, may God preserve you. Greetings of appreciation and pride. With your permission, sir, I forward to your excellency the findings of a team from the International School-Harvard Group concerning the system of food distribution by ration cards. The report thoroughly evaluates this system in terms of its competence, the fairness and comprehensiveness of its distribution, and its contribution to estimating the purchase power of citizens. It refutes the allegations and the extortion currently being practiced by the United States through its media, which claim that the food goes primarily to the Army and that it is distributed only to certain groups. The report urges international organizations to emulate this system, and it calls on the world community to enable the government to expand the implementation of this system rather than working to abolish it. This is an implicit reaction to Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712.

The aforementioned team, which consisted of 87 researchers in various fields, including agriculture, electrical engineering, environment, economy, children, and social and public health, visited the 30 largest Iraqi cities in the country's 18 governorates and countryside. The team carried out its mission without any intervention or control by the Iraqi Government. The study prepared by the team drew the following conclusions:

The entire population of Iraq is entitled to equal food rations for each individual without discrimination in terms of geographical area, religion, race, nationality, ideology, sex, place of residence, or profession. The team found no citizen without a ration card, nor met anyone who knew of another who did not have one. The team discovered that only one family out of the 58 that were questioned had not been able to receive its monthly food ration during the period that coincided with acts of violence. The team noted that the reason for this was the collapse of the transport and communications systems. This indicates that the objective evaluation of the questioned families gives further credit to the high level of the distribution system. This system is indeed an example to be emulated in terms of its comprehensiveness, fairness, competence, and provision of food to citizens. The system can, and indeed must, be relied upon in the planning of humanitarian assistance. The pressing need for international contribution should be confined to ensuring that the Iraqi Government possesses the means to perpetuate and expand the current system of distribution. This is certainly the most practical method of relieving the people of Iraq from deprivation.

Trade Minister Pledges Continued Efforts

JN3112090391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih in which he, on behalf of all Trade Ministry employees, renewed the pledge to exert all sincere and faithful efforts to continuously fulfill the Ministry's mission to provide food for citizens in the face of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. Following is the text of the cable:

Sir, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. It is a great, unmatched honor for the Trade Ministry employees to receive your excellency's blessings for fulfilling the duty toward the people at the most difficult and complicated circumstances and during the darkest nights we have ever experienced, after which a luminous moon given by God Almighty has appeared, as your excellency has put it. We consider this statement by your excellency a medal from which we draw further determination and resolve to face all chapters of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, including the unjust economic blockade which is still imposed on our people and country.

Sir leader, what the Ministry employees have given was based on instructions, supervision, support, and backing from your leadership even in the most difficult circumstances and during the aggressive bombardment. In a meeting I was honored to have with your excellency on 11 August 1990, you instructed that everyone residing in Iraq—Iraqis, Arabs, and foreigners, including citizens from the states of the aggression—should be covered by the ration card system and that everyone must receive the same ration without any discrimination out of your excellency's humanitarian view to take care of all those residing in Iraq. These instructions formed the basis for the Trade Ministry's plan to fulfill its duty to secure and maintain the distribution of food in the most difficult circumstances. I had the honor to meet with your excellency during the aggressive bombardment in Baghdad on 18 February 1991 and later on 5 March 1991. Despite the great tasks you were shouldering at that time to face

the 30-state aggression with all force and determination, your excellency was checking the Trade Ministry's plan and following up the distribution of flour and other food supplies to citizens in all areas of Baghdad and the governorates to make sure that food was reaching the citizens. Despite the damage our Ministry's stores sustained during the aggression and the chapter of treachery and treason, you instructed that the supply rations should be increased according to a program that was applied in subsequent phases, starting 5 March 1991.

The efforts made by the Trade Ministry employees for the sake of the people and the country are based on absolute faith in the inevitability of triumph over the aggression in all of its chapters behind your excellency's victorious banner.

Sir leader, while our hearts are filled with happiness and joy over this assessment, we pledge to your excellency, on my own behalf and on behalf of all Trade Ministry employees, to exert all sincere and faithful efforts to fulfill the Ministry's mission to continue to provide food for citizens in order to strengthen our country's steadfastness behind your wise leadership. We beseech God to protect you and grant you good health to remain for ever a glorious symbol for the Iraqis and the Arab nation.

Many happy returns, and may God protect you, sir leader.

[Signed] Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Trade Minister

Red Crescent To Expand Relief Operations in North

JN0101094092 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Dec 91 pp 1, 7

[By Ra'd 'Abd-al-Jabbar]

[Text] The first organizational conference of the Red Crescent operation branches in the northern region has decided to expand relief operations throughout the geographical area of the Irbil, al- Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk, al-Ta'mim, and Ninawa Governorates.

An Iraqi Red Crescent responsible source said that the conference, which concluded its work in the Ninawa Governorate yesterday and in which the heads and members of the Red Crescent operation branches in the abovementioned governorates participated, decided to establish a Red Crescent operations office in the northern region headquartered in Mosul. The purpose of the office is to expand and develop the organizational base of the Red Crescent branches in the northern region in order to provide humanitarian assistance and relief aid for needy citizens throughout the area.

The responsible source affirmed that the conference also endorsed the 1992 operational plan for the branches. The plan calls for coordination with and full supervision over the international relief organizations in the northern region. The plan also calls for establishing subcommittees for the Red Crescent operations in the Zakho and al-'Amadiyah districts, and for holding an intensive training symposium for all the Red Crescent cadres on 28 January in Mosul.

The source noted that the 2-day conference formed a delegation under the chairmanship of the official in charge of the Red Crescent Operations Office, which visited the Dahuk Governorate branch and received a briefing on the branch's organizational situation.

Envoy Discusses UN Vote, Resents U.S. Attitude

TA0701054992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpts] In New York, the United Nations Security Council has unanimously approved a resolution strongly condemning Israel's planned deportation of 12 Palestinians from the territories. Israel's Ambassador Yoram Aridor said despite the harsh resolution, Israel would continue to use deportations as necessary to defend its citizens against terrorist attacks. From New York, Judy Lessing reports:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] Ambassador Yoram Aridor said Israelis had been attacked before the Madrid conference and the talks in Washington last month and again before the new round.

[Aridor] Israel cannot allow what may well become an extended peace process to be used as a smoke screen for terror attacks against Israeli civilians. [passage omitted]

[Lessing] Ambassador Aridor said he strongly resented the U.S. attitude. He was asked if he thought the Council vote would have any effect on the next round of peace talks in Washington.

[Aridor] I don't see any effect upon the peace talks. Israel will continue with the peace talks and, on the other side, Israel at the same time will continue to do its utmost to defend the residents of Israel and to deter the terrorists. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 7 January carries a related report on Ambassador Aridor's reaction to the UN Security Council resolution, recorded "a short time ago." Aridor says: "The resolution is unbalanced. It does not mention the murderous attacks perpetrated by terror organizations. Israel must defend its citizens, both Jews and Arabs. Deportation is one of the means designed to deter all sorts of terrorists, and it has been endorsed as a legal means by the Supreme Court of the State of Israel."]

Ben-Aharon on UN Vote, U.S. Position

TA0701071592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report on an interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the delegation to talks with Syria, by Netan'el Semrik "early this morning"; place not given —recorded]

[Text] The condemnation of the UN Security Council will have an adverse effect on the atmosphere at the Washington peace talks. This observation was made by Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Syrians. Ben-Aharon stressed that the condemnation is the price the U.S. Administration is paying for the Arab delegations to come to Washington.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation waited for this condemnation before deciding on whether to leave for Washington. This is the price the United States has paid to secure their participation in the talks. We can only express our displeasure, our anger, and our regret over the fact that the United States continues to pay a price, at the expense of Israel and of terror victims in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, for the Arabs to come to the negotiations table.

[Semrik] Are you implying, sir, that the case in question is in fact a maneuver orchestrated by the Arab countries?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I have no cause to believe it was orchestrated, but the United States is allowing itself to be pressured, which I think is unnecessary and excessive, and it is being forced to pay an unnecessary price by endorsing this biased condemnation. I do not think any of this has been good for the peace process; on the contrary, the Arabs now feel the United States sides with them. It will have an adverse effect on the atmosphere in the negotiations. [end recording]

In any case, added Ben-Aharon, we will remain in Washington and wait for the Arab delegations as long as necessary.

Statement—UN Resolution 'One-Sided, Unjust'

TA0701102192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] In reaction to the UN resolution, Jerusalem has issued a statement saying that the resolution is one-sided, unjust, and disappointing.

The prime minister's media adviser said that the resolution totally ignores the murder of Israeli citizens. He further said that Israel will continue doing its duty for the safety of its citizens and will take action against anyone encouraging or instigating terrorism and violence. Israel will equally pursue its efforts to promote peace.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes that the prime minister's adviser did not comment on the U.S. position in the debate or on the fact that Ambassador Pickering participated in the formulation of the harsh condemnation.

Ministers on UN Condemnation of Deportations

Netanyahu Disappointed, But Not Surprised

TA0701065392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpt] [Einstein] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, we have become accustomed to condemnations emanating from the United Nations. Was this one a really scathing condemnation?

[Netanyahu] Yes, it was certainly a harsh condemnation and we were disappointed, but not surprised. We were

aware that there is disagreement between us and the United States on this issue, but I thought that at least they understood that we are taking self- defense measures in the face of incessant killings. Naturally, the United Nations can feign innocence and revert to being the organization we knew in the past, but it will not be able to change the situation—namely, that we are taking steps that any country can and should take to protect its citizens and its residents.

[Einstein] But if we set aside our attitude to the United Nations' backing similar resolutions and focus on the fact that it was the United States that led this move, is there room to reconsider the deportation decision?

[Netanyahu] I do not think we ought to be overly impressed by the wording of the resolution. I am not dismissing the political significance of the very fact that the resolution was passed, but the allegations behind the resolution are irrelevant. First of all, the legal allegations: Contrary to what the UN resolution says, we have not violated the Geneva Convention. The Geneva Convention refers to the mass deportation of a population. When this clause was written after World War II, it referred to the uprooting of entire nations. What we have here is the removal of several individuals who are definitely not innocent and who were instrumental in the murder of both Jews and Arabs.

The second aspect is the connection to the peace process, which was also discussed at length at the United Nations yesterday. I think the opposite is true. The Arabs cannot link the process and the rate of its progress to our acquiescence to violence. We have never linked the process or our participation in it with the Arabs' conduct, although we knew that some of them would try to instigate violence. It is incomprehensible that they are suddenly saying that our steps, which were meant to protect us from theirs, should constitute a reason to stop or suspend the political process.

Therefore, both politically and legally, these allegations are unacceptable. And yet, although the resolution has been passed, we will speak with the United States and other countries which may listen to explanations about our stand and its justness. I would not attach too much weight, however, to the allegations behind this resolution.

[Einstein] Our decision, which was followed by the UN resolution, has again forged an allegiance between the United States and the PLO. Reports from the United States say that the resolution was formulated jointly by the Americans and the PLO.

[Netanyahu] And not for the first time, either. The United Nations, like politics, is an odd arena where you sometimes find strange bedfellows. There is nothing new in this. What matters is that we expect the peace talks—our delegations are waiting for their resumption—to adhere to the rules of the game on which we agreed both with the United States and with the Arabs; this pertains also to the PLO issue.

[Einstein] We hear that the U.S. Administration is resuming the discussion of the loan guarantee issue with us, and its decision is expected next month. Do you not fear that the deportations may be detrimental to us in this context?

[Netanyahu] I think the question of guarantees is not connected with the current issue. We and the United States have disagreed on the issue of deportations since the Six-Day War, and I do not believe it will affect the decision on guarantees. The issue of guarantees involves other factors—important factors—and I think we are capable of discussing them seriously and, I hope, productively with the U.S. Government. I do not think the issue of deportations will be a weighty factor in this context. [passage omitted]

Arens—UN Condemnation Expected

TA0701115492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says that the UN condemnation of Israel was expected and that the Israeli Government will not revoke its decision on deportations. Our correspondent in the south, 'Ezra Yanuv, spoke with the defense minister a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [Arens] This did not surprise us, although, I must admit, we were disappointed. The recent terrorist activity taking place on Israel's roads is intended to harm the peace process. I would expect any element who supports progress in the political process to support the measures that we have adopted to put an end to these murders.

[Yanuv] The current situation is that we were denounced, but have not yet implemented the deportations. What will happen, in your opinion?

[Arens] The deportation process in a democratic, law-abiding country such as Israel involves legal proceedings, which we should follow. Those slated for deportation can appeal to a military appeals committee. Later, if their appeal is rejected, they also have the right to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

[Yanuv] Still, politically, can the current pressure influence the Israeli Government into changing its position on this issue?

[Arens] This pressure cannot and should not influence us. If outside pressure dissuaded us from adopting the measures necessary to defend human lives here, this would be a signal to the terrorist organizations that they can perpetrate such murders without fearing an Israeli reaction. [end recording]

Olmert—U.S. Atmosphere 'Hostile'

TA0701121592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report on an interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by correspondent in Haifa Qobi Mandel on 7 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mandel] On the condemnation of Israel at the UN Security Council, Minister Olmert said the condemnation was expected:

[Olmert] I do not think that with the decision on deportations, we lost the chance of receiving the guarantees. The guarantees issue is very problematic from the viewpoint of the U.S. Administration in any event. I hope we will receive them.

[Mandel] It is said that the United States' practical activity behind the scenes is actually a payment to the Palestinian delegation in the wake of the deportation announcement.

[Olmert] Look, I entertain no illusion about the U.S. position. In my opinion, for quite a while now the prevailing atmosphere in Washington, regrettably, has been hostile, regardless of what we do or do not do, to such an extent that even if we do everything the Americans want, they will still be mad at us for doing it.

Shamir Discusses Deportation Decision

TA0601163692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] The deportation of 12 Palestinians from the territories will be effective and restore calm, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated today at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Shamir added that the Israeli delegation would discuss the question of autonomy in the Washington talks, despite the right wing's threats to bolt the coalition. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] The prime minister said he doubted reports that the United States intends to resume a dialogue with the PLO. We have received no indication to that effect, Shamir said. He rejected criticism of the decision to deport 12 Palestinians. Although the effectiveness cannot be measured mathematically, we think deportations are effective and have the power to restore calm, the prime minister told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Shamir said he had no second thoughts about the decision, despite the criticism voiced in the United States.

[Shamir] It is not easy to decide on such a tough measure. This is not the first time we have weighed the issue; sometimes an issue is considered and ultimately it is decided not to make a decision. This time, however, we considered the issue and decided to make a decision. So I do not think we have any second thoughts on the matter. We pondered it a great deal.

[Gilhar] Opposition members criticized the decision. Moledet's Ya'ir Sprinzak said deportations are not an effective weapon because they are not used enough, while Tehiya's Hanan Porat welcomed the move. Shamir rejected the arguments of the opposition, saying that the government does not act according to the dictates of settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

As for the current round of talks in Washington, Shamir said that the government would not change its decision to proceed to implement autonomy in the territories. In light of the right wing's threats to quit the government, the prime minister told the committee: I hope the Camp David accords and the autonomy will not make me go to the president with my resignation. [end recording]

Levi Rejects EC Protest Over Deportations

TA0601184192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has challenged Palestinian leaders to condemn the murders of Jews. He also rejected a protest from the ambassadors of the 12 EC countries over the decision to expel 12 Palestinians. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] If the Palestinians taking part in the negotiations with Israel do not represent the terrorist groups, why do they not condemn them publicly, Foreign Minister David Levi asked, and if they do represent them, then they are making an impossible demand of us, that we conduct negotiations while terrorism is being practiced against us.

The foreign minister was speaking to the ambassadors of the 12 EC countries who had expressed their disapproval of Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians who, the Defense Ministry says, have been involved in terrorist activity. David Levi replied: One cannot recall even one case in which a protest was submitted by the European states over the murder of Jews. Levi was guest of the 12 ambassadors at a luncheon to celebrate the rotation of the chairmanship of the EC. Dutch Foreign Minister van den Broek is stepping down and his Portuguese colleague Pinheiro is taking over. David Levi is making a three-day official visit to Portugal on 12 January.

Shamir—All But Syria Agree to Talks in Region

TA0701103992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 p A4

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday disclosed that, with the exception of Syria, all the delegations participating in the political negotiations are in favor of moving the bilateral talks from Washington to our region. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said that the United States is also in favor of moving the talks to our region and that all the delegations have been asked to submit a list of possible venues for the bilateral talks. [passage omitted]

Referring to the multilateral conference scheduled to open in Moscow on 28 January, the prime minister noted that it will last two days: The first day will be taken up by the speeches of the foreign ministers, while the second day will be used to decide on an agenda. According to him, the PRC, Japan, and the EC countries have shown great interest in the conference, and their leaders have expressed great concern about the surge of fundamentalism in various countries, as reflected in the election results in Algeria, and fear that it might spread to Egypt and Jordan. [passage omitted]

Likud-Labor Discuss Advancing Elections

TA0701101292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[Excerpts] Senior Likud and Labor members have been conducting preliminary contacts to bring the elections forward. The talks held so far dwelt on the date favored by the two "biggies." The Likud would like to hold the elections at the end of May, while Labor would like to schedule them for the end of June or the beginning of July.

An agreement in principle has been reached in the contacts—conducted by senior ministers on behalf of the Likud and by leading Labor members—to bring the elections forward and to hold them before their scheduled date in November. As said, the current negotiations are over the exact date. The contacts are apparently being held with the approval of the prime minister and the tacit agreement of Labor leaders.

Knesset Members Shim'on Shetrit of Labor and Mikha'el Eytan of the Likud yesterday announced a joint initiative to bring the elections forward by submitting a bill for the disbandment of the Knesset in mid-June. Shetrit and Eytan said they will meet with their party leaders to discuss the issue. [passage omitted]

Although the Tehiya and Moledet are not expected to bolt the coalition this week, there is no doubt that this will be the case if the talks in Washington continue, which would ultimately lead to the fall of the government within the next few weeks.

The assessment in the Likud and Labor is that the fall of the government will lead to the establishment of a caretaker government and that early elections will hinge on the agreement of Labor and the opposition.

Peres, Shamir Discuss Electoral Reform, Security

TA0701111892 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 p 3

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Text] Shim'on Peres held a tete-a-tete with Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday in a bid to persuade him to agree to change the system of electing the prime minister.

In the 40-minute meeting, Peres told Shamir that in his tours of the country as part of the election campaign for Labor's primaries, he encountered hundreds of people who conveyed to him the feeling that the Knesset and the politicians have hit rock bottom with the public, who feel utter disgust toward them.

"The disgust is felt toward all of us," Peres said, "and this should be seen as a danger sign. We must bring about a change that will heighten the prestige and stature of Israel's Knesset." Peres asked Shamir to support the bill, but Shamir said that the proposed change "is neither here nor there" and that he would prefer a more presidential system of government. Peres remarked that once the law is passed, Labor and the Likud could work together to raise the minimum quota needed to qualify for a seat in the Knesset, perhaps even to as high as 2.5 percent.

The two men discussed the national unity government, albeit not in operational terms, during the meeting in which sensitive security matters were also raised. Both agreed that the unity government was good for its time but is not justified at the moment.

Peres on UN Condemnation, Shamir Meeting

TA0701130192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Labor Chairman Shim'on Peres by Avraham Ben-Melekh—live]

[Excerpts] [Ben-Melekh] Mr. Peres, we would like to ask for your reaction to last night's condemnation at the Security Council.

[Peres] I am very sorry about the condemnation, mainly because of the way the United States voted, but it is, of course, impossible to separate the condemnation from the chain of events that started with the Israeli decision to deport. The authorities should have weighed very carefully whether deportation is the right move at this time and whether it can achieve its objectives.

Naturally, no one is questioning Israel's obligation to do everything to put an end to terrorist attacks, but even the determination to do so should be accompanied by self-searching on whether the means that are being used are appropriate.

[Ben-Melekh] Deportations had been carried out in the past.

[Peres] True, but their efficacy should be reexamined. Look, we do not automatically repeat everything we have done in the past. Military strategy makes sense if new measures are introduced from time to time, instead of the old, familiar ones. Deportations were indeed efficacious, but I think that at a certain point they lost some of their efficacy. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Melekh] In yesterday's meeting, did you and Shamir discuss the possibility of reestablishing a national unity government?

[Peres] We discussed it, but we cannot set up a national unity government when we are separated by such genuine disagreements. Deceitful tactics cannot solve everything. Mr. Shamir believes that declarations about territories are the main issue, but all we have is declarations, because we do not own the territories. This is the crux of the issue.

[Ben-Melekh] Mr. Peres, was the national unity idea proposed by Mr. Shamir or by you?

[Peres] We spoke about the need for the two parties to achieve a change in the present system in order to save the honor of democracy and of the Knesset. Mr. Shamir said he has always been in favor of a national unity government, and I said I was also for a national unity government, on the condition that we support the same policies. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Melekh] Mr. Peres, is it possible that if the extreme right-wing parties carry out their threat and leave the government, it will be expedient for both Shamir and you to cooperate by reestablishing the national unity government?

[Peres] Look, our condition has been and still is that a genuine peace process be pursued; this is the decisive factor. I do not think such a process is being pursued at present. [passage omitted]

Arens To Examine Request for New Settlement

TA0501155492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens promised Kfar Darom residents that he will examine their demand for the expansion of their settlement and the establishment of a new neighborhood named after Doron Shorshan, who was murdered last week. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that Minister Arens spoke with Qatif bloc residents. They complained that their safety was neglected and that the intifadah was not properly handled. Mr. Arens answered that he understood their anger but that they should direct this anger at those engaged in terrorism and let the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] conduct the hard battle in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Sharon Says U.S. 'Holding Soviet Jews Hostage'

TA0601171492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] The Americans are holding Soviet Jews hostage by making aid conditional on Israeli concessions, Housing and Construction Minister Ari'el Sharon charged today. Sharon called for the annexation of the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Galya Marom reports:

[Begin recording] [Marom] If we do not receive the guarantees from the U.S. Administration, we will be forced to increase the economic burden on our own people and Jews in the diaspora will have to make a greater effort, Minister Ari'el Sharon stated a short while ago, while addressing Israel Bonds activists currently visiting Israel. Sharon warned: Soviet Jews cannot be held as hostages.

[Sharon] We must not accept a situation in which Soviet Jews are held hostage by the U.S. Administration so that we make concessions that would imperil our very existence here.

[Marom] Referring to the peace talks, Sharon said that autonomy is a bad idea and is unacceptable to the Arabs in any case. If they accept it, we should make sure that it does not lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state by annexing the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

Settlement Data Reviewed Due to U.S. Opposition

TA0701100192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[Text] Over 8,000 new apartments will be built in the territories in 1992, about half the number that will be built throughout the country during the same time, at a cost of 1.2 billion Israeli shekels.

Confirming the data, a high-level Treasury official said that an attempt is being made "to scale down the data" due to the U.S. opposition to this building activity.

There have been numerous reports recently that the Americans plan to cut the sum Israel allocates to settlement in the territories from the loan guarantees. This is one of the reasons why official figures on settlement in the territories are not being made public. The Construction and Housing Ministry's budget for this year has earmarked funds for building 7,500 apartments, but the ministry has surplus funds from the 1991 budget for building some 12,000 apartments.

Joint Decision on Peace Talks To Be Made

JN0701130992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Jordanian-Palestinian talks were held in Amman this morning. Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat headed the Palestinian side and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir headed the Jordanian side.

The talks dealt with the latest developments involving the Middle East peace process in light of the Security Council condemnation of Israel for its decision to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Attending the talks from the Jordanian side were Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transportation 'Ali al-Suhaymat, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif, and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs 'Atif al-Butush.

Attending the talks from the Palestinian side were members of the PLO Executive Committee Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Amr, and Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

At the end of the talks Foreign Minister Abu-Jabir said the two sides discussed Security Council Resolutions 726 issued yesterday, and feel that it is a responsible resolution showing the international community's respect for the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and for the need to make the peace process succeed.

Dr. Abu-Jabir added that Jordan is consulting with other Arab sides participating in the peace process, and will make a joint decision on this matter this evening.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh told newsmen after the meeting that the Palestinian delegation will now go to Damascus for consultations with Syrian and Lebanese officials so that the four Arab sides of the peace talks would adopt a joint position to be agreed on this evening.

In Amman also, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat said that his talks with Jordanian and Syrian officials yesterday and today were successful. 'Arafat was speaking to newsmen at the end of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks held this morning.

Al-Majali on Peace Talks, Jordan's Position

JN0501102792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1940 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Interview in the studio with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, "head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks," by Muhammad al-Sharif on 1 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Sharif] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, concerning the Israeli side, some say that the Israelis seek to gain or even to waste time by discussing procedural issues in preparation for offering what they might consider a concession at a specific time, probably the 20th of this month, the date set by the United States for the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel, in order to get something in return for what might be considered a concession. Are we prepared to deal with such a situation?

[Al-Majali] I believe the loan guarantees have not been given. The U.S. President adopted a praiseworthy, brave position on this issue. He was clear. He said that if the loan guarantees are given, they will negatively affect the peace process. If no real progress takes place in the peace process, and if nothing is achieved, I believe that it is unreasonable for him to offer these guarantees. Therefore, if the Israelis fail to make progress and procrastinate, they will also lose what could be offered to them. This is clear. We do not seek to delay anything. We want to reap fruits, at least some fruits at this stage by knowing that Israel really wants peace and intends to work for peace in an appropriate manner. We have always said that Israel talks about peace, but its constant strategy has always depended on war and Arab rejection. Throughout the past decades, the entire Israeli strategy has been based on Arab rejection. Taken by surprise when the Arabs went to the peace talks and challenged it over the peace issue, Israel could not devise a new peace strategy. This is a basic and important issue. We must not allow Israel to provoke us by various means to make us to leave the peace process. The announcements on new settlements and what has taken place in Silwan and the al-Aqsa mosque are obvious provocative attempts to make the Arab delegation leave the peace process. Then, their vicious propaganda would tell the world: See, the Arabs reject peace and leave the peace hall.

[Al-Sharif] Dr. 'Abd-al-al-Salam, a point that you referred to at the beginning of this interview needs further clarification. We accepted the principle of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation before the beginning of the peace talks. Why are we now talking about two separate tracks: An Arab-Israeli track and a Palestinian-Israeli track? Why do the Jordanians and Palestinians insist on separate talks with the Israelis?

[Al-Majali] At the beginning of the interview, I explained the reasons. First, we in Jordan refuse to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, so do the Syrians and Lebanese. The Palestinians themselves must negotiate their case. Therefore, there must be a Palestinian-Israeli track, which is the core of the issue. All the Arabs—Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan—have some of their territories occupied. We constitute states. The Palestinians are stateless now. Therefore, two tracks must be established. The joint delegation has served as an umbrella—a term that has been used by his majesty the king. It was provided by Jordan to help the brother Palestinians to attend the peace conference because they do not have a state. How can the stateless Palestinians be invited, how can they attend, in what capacity? Therefore, this umbrella has been provided and named the joint delegation. However, the joint delegation is not there to negotiate in this capacity, but to attend the general conference as a joint

delegation, and not the bilateral talks, or the bilateral negotiations. This joint delegation does not hold negotiations. A joint delegation does not mean that it is a joint delegation to the negotiations with the other side. That is why there should be two tracks. Jordan has provided the umbrella at the request of the brother Palestinians, of course, and the parties concerned because this is the best, and almost the only available option to the brothers. Otherwise, how can the Palestine question be discussed? The Arab states are not ready to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. How can that be done? Thus, this formula has been developed.

[Al-Sharif] Concerning the Jordanian-Israeli talks, some Israeli circles talk about the possibility of offering Jordan a peace treaty. What would your negotiatory stand on this issue be if it is raised?

[Al-Majali] Of course, a peace conference must lead to a peace treaty. This is natural. However, we must not begin from the end, but from the beginning. Peace must be built brick by brick before a whole is achieved. A whole must be achieved by assembling various and numerous points that must be negotiated so that a peace can eventually be achieved. However, this peace, be it a peace treaty, a peace agreement, or whatever it might be called, will come at the final stage. We cannot talk about the end when we have not started yet, before plans have been devised, and before we are sure that this end is the intent of the procedural action.

[Al-Sharif] With respect to the occupied territories—the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip—there are various definitions of the term self-government in the transitional phase. How do you envisage this phase?

[Al-Majali] In fact, we, Jordan, must not intervene in this issue, which concerns the brother Palestinians themselves. When they reach a decision, we will support them. If this takes place and this transitional phase is established, negotiations will be held between us and the brother officials taking part in this transitional phase in order to clarify and entrench many relations between us and our kinfolk in the occupied territory.

[Al-Sharif] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, many terms have emerged from the Arab-Israeli peace talks, such as the "corridor diplomacy" and "confidence-building measures" between the negotiating sides. How do you understand this term?

[Al-Majali] It means that true intentions should be revealed. In other words, if you want to spend a long time engaged in fruitless argument about a certain point, this indicates that you are not coming for peace. However, there are many indicators. If Israel declares that it intends to halt settlement activity—but we are not talking about establishing settlements now; this needs a long conversation—this means that it has taken the first step toward peace. This would be an indicator and a clarification of intentions. If Israel declares readiness to recognize Jordan's rights to water, the mere declaration would be part of the confidence-building measures. Thus, this must lead to an Arab response. The Arab side may do something in return, perhaps concerning the boycott, which has many forms and stages. The Arab side might offer to drop one of these stages to assert to the other side that there is an intention to proceed with the peace measures and to make them reach an end.

[AL-Sharif] Concerning the multilateral talks, which are the third phase of the peace negotiations and which will begin at the end of this month in Moscow, what is the relationship between these multilateral talks and the bilateral talks in Washington?

[Al-Majali] As I said, the peace conference is made up of three stages. These stages are interrelated. Even with regard to the first stage in Madrid, I said that the conference was adjourned, not concluded, so that when all parties reach agreements, this conference would be asked to reconvene so that these agreements can be finalized and fully legalized. Thus, the phases are interrelated. The regional phase is a basic part because it deals with various matters concerning the entire region. For example, arms control and nuclear weapons, which are a basic issue, as well as the water issue in the region in general can be raised. This is because water in its current quantities is not sufficient for the region's large population. Therefore, discussions must be held between concerned states and those who can provide economic and financial aid to establish various projects in the region benefiting all concerned parties, especially over issues such as water and refugees. The refugees issue is a major one. As you know, the UN General Assembly resolutions provide for refugees' right to repatriation or compensation. Who will pay compensation, if compensation has been opted for, and who will be compensated? All such matters must be discussed on the international level, especially by the states that wish to participate in providing aid. All EC states requested participation, collectively or individually, as well as Canada, Japan, and other states. The states of the entire region are invited because this is part of peace. I always say that peace must be a whole, rather than a fragmented peace. If peace is divided it cannot be peace. As it is said in English: Peace should not be in pieces; peace is a whole piece [preceding sentence in English]. Therefore, all the parties concerned in the region should participate in and give their blessings to this process. As you know, the Arab Republic of Egypt, then the largest and strongest Arab country, concluded a peace treaty. Has peace been achieved in the region? No, because this is a partial peace. Therefore, peace must be for all people in the region, not for a single state.

[Al-Sharif] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, there are fears that through the bilateral talks a form of normalization of relations could be effected before reaching definite results in the these talks. What is your comment?

[Al-Majali] The word "normalization" and many other terms should be read and explained. What does normalization mean? Does it mean shaking hands with the other side? Does it mean smiling, saying good morning? Normalization means normal relations. These normal relations cannot come unless their ingredients have been realized. There can be no normal relations between Israel

and Jordan if the Jordanian territory remains occupied. It is not normal to have our waters taken. Nothing can be normal if the Jordanians have rights that are usurped. There can be no normalcy when the Palestinian brothers continue to suffer occupation and are denied recognition and self-determination. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Some say that the final solution for the overall Middle East problem is prepared and ready in the U.S. Department of State, that all the talks that took or will place in Madrid, Washington, Moscow, and other places are merely being staged for this ready solution. Did you sense the presence of such a solution during talks in Madrid and Washington?

[Al-Majali] I believe those who claim the existence of such solutions must have attended the so-called general international conferences. At these conferences, draft resolutions are drawn up. Then delegates talk. If there are substantive points, they try to amend these resolutions accordingly. They do not expect to hold talks after the conference has ended. They have to reach something in order not to waste time. As for those who say that solutions are already there, I say that I would like to see these solutions because this makes many problems easier. This way you can see the solutions and study them one after another. If such solutions exist, work will be facilitated and expedited. But this does not mean imposition of solutions.

There is also the question that the solutions are already there and all the current things are merely formalities, that these solutions will be imposed whether the conference convenes or not, this is another question. If these solutions exist and they are presented to us at one point to facilitate our work, then we welcome them. We want to see them, discuss them, and find out if they are in our interest. If we agreed with the Israelis on certain issues, we would confirm them because they accepted and we accepted. Now the ready-made solutions could be different. Is it possible to cancel what we have agreed on. No, I think that these remarks should be discussed very deeply.

We would have liked such things to exists. We would have received them and discussed them. But things are not like that. If they are, we would like to see these ready-made solutions.

[Al-Sharif] In light of the above, the question is: What is the role of the United States? In Madrid, the U.S. role was clear. In Washington, this role retreated politically and from the media viewpoints. What is the U.S. role?

[Al-Majali] First, I do not believe that it has retreated. Expressions are exaggerated. The tremendous glow around the Madrid conference helped to break the ice. It required this force because it effected basic changes. It is like giving birth. Giving birth is a great event but the life of the child is less momentous than the birth itself. The child was born there and it required large- scale celebrations. There were many well-wishers, visitors, and so on. Well-wishers are not expected to come every day. This is not natural.

Second, the United States was preoccupied with tremendous events, such as the collapse of the USSR; the hostages, which is a basic issue for them; the Kennedy affair, which is also important for them; the economic problem. Yet, there were daily reports on the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] It is certain that many Israeli viewers are now watching us on their television screens. What can you tell them?

[Al-Majali] I would like to say that this is an opportunity for peace, an opportunity which may not recur. If the Israeli people believe in peace deep inside them, then they must take this opportunity seriously and convince the government apparatus to go for peace not only formally but in practice. The other point is that the Israeli propaganda is spreading fear of Arab coordination, that the Arab states are forces that meet together to fight. This may be true in war. But this age is different. They should not fear Arab coordination, which is aimed at establishing complete rather than fragmented peace. [passage omitted]

Peace should be for all the parties concerned. Therefore, I believe the attempts to establish a peace treaty with Jordan alone, with Syria alone, with Palestinians, or with the Lebanese, are wrong. Peace should be integrated, a whole. They should not fear this. On the contrary, peace must be like this. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni Arrives To Discuss Peace Talks

JN0601163592 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1536 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, 6 Jan (PETRA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a short visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials.

Al-Husayni's talks with Jordanian officials will focus on the latest developments in the peace process following the Arab decision to postpone their departure to the U.S. talks to protest the Israeli occupation authorities' decision to deport 12 Palestinian citizens.

Comments on Deportations

JN0601203192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a short visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials.

Al-Husayni's talks with the Jordanian officials will focus on the latest developments in the peace process following the Arab decision to postpone the departure of the Arab delegations to the U.S. talks in protest against the Israeli occupation authorities decision to deport 12 Palestinians.

Mr. al-Husayni spoke to our correspondent for political affairs Salim 'Ali Diyab on the dimensions of the Israeli deportation decision.

[Begin recording] [al-Husayni] In fact, this operation is a continuation of the destructive Israeli policy which it adopted a long time ago and from the beginning of the peace process to disrupt this peace process, starting with the first deportations, more settlement building, confiscation of land, and collective punishments which reached a climax today with this latest operation.

In fact, Israel, as I said before, is aiming to disrupt the peace process. For our part, we cannot continue responding to the U.S. position which is calling on us not to give Israel the opportunity to leave the negotiating room. Things have reached their climax and the United States should adopt a true and clear position toward this Israeli action.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Faysal, with respect to the postponement of the departure of the Palestinian delegation and the other Arab parties, how long will this postponement continue?

[al-Husayni] I think there are three things facing us. These are the Israeli position, the U.S. position, and the UN Security Council position. The reactions from these three parties will decide the Arab's position on the peace conference. [end recording]

Reacts to UN Resolution; Ends Visit

JN0701114292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and Dr. Ahmad al-Yaziji, member of the advisory council of the delegation, left Amman on a tour of Sweden, Japan, and a number of European countries to explain the Palestinian view vis-a-vis the peace conference.

Commenting on the UN Security Council resolution, which strongly condemns Israel for its decision to expel 12 Palestinian citizens from the occupied territory, al-Husayni said, in a predeparture statement: This Security Council resolution will give us an opportunity to discuss the resumption of talks in a more positive climate. He said that he hoped such resolutions would be binding.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Consultations

JN0601192292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman from Damascus this evening on a short visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with a number of top Jordanian officials to continue consultations on latest developments in the region, the peace process, and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

He was received at the airport by 'Ali Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and minister of transport, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Awaits UN Reaction to Deportations

JN0601203592 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat returned to Amman from Damascus this evening after talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the fate of the Middle East peace process, jeopardized by Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinians. [passage omitted]

'Arafat said on arrival in Amman that his talks with his majesty the king yesterday, and today's meeting with President al-Asad centered on coordinating a common approach by Arab parties involved in the peace process.

He said that the Israeli deportation of Palestinians was an act of discrimination, and was intended to defy the Arab nation. He said he was awaiting a reaction from the UN Security Council towards the escalating Israeli measures in disregard of the international law and UN resolutions.

'Arafat also told Jordan television that a decision by the Israeli defense minister to arm Jewish settlers was a further escalation against the Palestinian population.

PLO Official on Peace Talks, Arab Coordination

JN0601130492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 92 pp 1, 16

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman yesterday. Among those receiving him at Amman airport were Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department; and PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told journalists that the PLO is waiting for a UN Security Council resolution that condemns Israel's deportation decision and demands that Israel adhere to the Fourth Geneva Convention. He said: We cannot agree to continue negotiations with Israel on the bases it wants to impose: that is, to negotiate on the one hand; and to escalate suppression, settlement activity, and deportation of Palestinians, on the other.

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed: This contradicts the concept of negotiating and the principles on which the peace talks that began in Madrid were based.

He explained that the PLO expects the United States and the European Community to adopt a positive position at the Security Council. He stressed that the PLO cannot allow the Palestinian delegation to resume negotiations before ensuring that the negotiations will be held in an unbiased atmosphere that guarantees neutrality and honesty. He said: The United States must ensure this by taking a step, even if

symbolic, in this direction: that is, by pressuring Israel to cancel the deportation decision and by applying an earlier Security Council resolution that stipulates placing the occupied territories under international supervision to ensure Israel's adherence to the Geneva Convention and stop human rights violations.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: Through the current intense contacts with Jordan, Syria, and Egypt, the PLO seeks to find a formula for an Arab meeting of the countries concerned with the negotiations, and to come out with a permanent Arab mechanism for coordination. It is also continuing efforts to convene a comprehensive Arab meeting, especially before the date set for the multilateral talks. We cannot go to such a meeting in the current Arab situation and with the lack of minmum coordination between the concerned Arab parties. [passage omitted]

King Husayn on Arab Coordination, Conference

JN0201165092 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Report on statements by King Husayn to unidentified reporters following a visit to the Prime Ministry in Amman on 2 January]

[Excerpt] Amman, 2 Jan (PETRA)—[passage omitted] His majesty said: Last year was a year of jolts. We saw the world changing its features and realities unexpectedly and quickly. I believe we have ahead of us new spheres and situations for work and construction.

The king said: Praise be to God, our country is large in terms of its achievements. God willing, our country will continue its giving through the participation of everybody here to make Jordan a symbol and a good example to all.

Responding to a question regarding how he views the multilateral talks and whether prior Arab coordination is taking place, his majesty said: Since the beginning, we have been advocates of coordination. We do not believe that what has happened so far meets our aspirations. Naturally, coordination means that the brethren work together to crystallize a specific policy and an agreed-upon orientation. I believe that the objectives, generally, are the same objectives and our aims are the same aims. There is no doubt about that. However, coordination falls much shorter than what we had wished. At any rate, this places huge burdens and responsibilities on us, and we will continue to seek the required coordination.

His majesty said: Let me be clear. The multilateral conference is important. Some brethren may have reservations about it. However, I believe that the conference, in terms of attendance and participation, will be larger than the international conference we have demanded over the past years, and a large number of world and regional states will take part in it.

His majesty added that during this meeting and the beginning of this process it may be possible to present issues that it may be impossible to present at any other level. These issues deal with the Arab and Palestinian human being and his rights, and with our holy shrines and many other important issues for all of us. These issues are related to the future of the human being on this land, particularly in this region as a whole. His majesty expressed hope that things would go in the right direction.

He said there are many issues relating to the details that are not yet clear, but we are studying with our brothers all issues and requisites, and God willing the results will be good.

Regarding the holding of an Arab meeting before the multilateral conference, his majesty said: If the chance arises, we are ready because we call for meetings and for cooperation under all circumstances and conditions, and we have asked for this. But to meet with whom? If the brothers want to meet, this is good, we have called for such meetings at the highest level, even before this last stage of the Madrid conference and the Washington talks.

In reply to a question, his majesty said: I do not believe there is a link between the bilateral negotiations and the multilateral conference. It could be the other way around, as it may push for the realization of progress. I think that the mutual negotiations which were held in Washington are the beginning, and we have to wait and see what are the results of the second round of talks.

Premier, Canadian Minister Discuss Cooperation

JN0501143192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister, today received Canadian Defense Minister Marcel Masse, who is currently touring the region. Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister, attended.

They discussed the ties of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and Canada and means to improve them. They also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East.

The delegation accompanying Mr. Masse and the Canadian ambassador in Amman also attended the meeting.

Sudanese Ministers Arrive To Attend Trade Fair

JN0301155892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. Ibrahim 'Ubaydullah, Sudanese minister of commerce, cooperation, and supplies, and Engineer al-Sa'id 'Uthman Mahjub, Sudanese minister of expatriates

[name and title as heard], arrived in Amman today on an official visit to Jordan, during which they attend the inauguration of a one-week Sudanese products fair, which will begin in Amman next Wednesday.

During their visit, they will meet with a number of Jordanian officials with the aim of exploring ways of consolidating and developing relations between the two sisterly states.

Buwayz Says Delegation To Attend Washington Talks

NC0701113992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said the Security Council's condemnation of Israel for its decision to expel 12 Palestinians has eliminated our reservations about resuming the talks. He added that the Lebanese delegation should head for Washington to resume negotiations in the next few days. We are in continuous consultation with the other Arab foreign ministers concerned with the negotiations, he said.

Buwayz Leaves for Damascus Talks 5 Jan

NC0501100392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left for Damascus at 0830 for talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the Lebanese internal situation and the next round of Washington talks.

Buwayz is expected to return to Beirut this evening.

Returns, Briefs al-Hirawi

NC0501180692 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned from Damascus this evening following talks with Syrian officials, including Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Buwayz briefed the president on the outcome of his talks regarding the internal situation and the peace talks in Washington.

Syrian Vice President Arrives, Meets al-Hirawi

NC0701092892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived at the provisional presidential headquarters a short while ago. He is now meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Syrian Military Leaders Attend

NC0701111392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived at the presidential headquarters at approximately 1100 and met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, where he is scheduled to hold talks on a number of local issues as well as the Washington negotiations.

Khaddam is accompanied by Syrian Army Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi and Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the security and intelligence service in Lebanon.

Fatah Statement on Assassination of Official

NC0701111092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The Fatah Movement in Sidon has issued a statement on the assassination of Force-17 official Husayn Salim, [name as heard] announcing that it adheres to the firm Palestinian stand on the right to repatriation, self-determination, and a Palestinian state.

The statement lauded the unified Arab stand on the PLO, confronting the policy of deportation and settlement and Israeli rejection of international legitimacy.

Reportage on Reaction to al-Bastah Bombing

Fadlallah, Islamic Amal Leader Comment

NC0301172892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared that the al-Bastah bombing is a message to numerous parties, including the oppressed so they will not interfere with the security of the major powers and so the people will become reasonable and rise against all those who resist the major powers.

Fadlallah added that the bombing is also a message connected with the domestic situation and the government's political performance. He continued: It is a message from Israel indicating that it does not want to allow security to prevail in Lebanon or to permit an authority that is able to maintain peace in the country because that will compel the world to urge it to withdraw from Lebanon.

He noted that the United States used to pay attention to Lebanon because of the hostages, the sons of the legitimate consort, who have now been released.

He added: As to the sons of the concubine [Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Israel], they are still detained. The United States is seeking to disrupt security in Lebanon to have a pretext not to assist it.

He asserted that the United States is giving a green light for such bombings to justify the fact that it is not exerting pressure on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, condemned the al-Bastah bombing and called it an episode in the serial of political injustice, criminality, and terrorism which is perpetrated only by the beasts who grew up in the Zionist jungle. He referred to those who turn a blind eye to the facts and do not dare to point a finger at the Israeli enemies and their agents and hold them responsible for these major crimes afflicting our region: In occupied Palestine, the south, western al-Biqa', and Beirut.

Al-Musawi asked: Are those whose bodies were torn by the al- Bastah bomb not our Muslim people and sons who are working hard for a living? Who is the party whose sole

preoccupation is killing Muslims and extinguishing the light of Islam, from Iran to Algeria, from Palestine to Lebanon? Is it not the United States and its new security order behind which international Zionism stands?

The Islamic Amal leader called on all Muslims and Christians to close ranks to confront the enemies who are targeting us indiscriminately. He said: Only by closing ranks can we guarantee our people's security and stability and our country's independence and sovereignty.

Hizballah Official on 'Message' to Syria

NC0301182492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1412 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Interview with Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, by Nuhad Qaysi, carried within the "Weekly Panorama" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Qaysi] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, how does Hizballah view the timing, implications, and objectives of the al-Bastah bombing?

[Qasim] This bombing targeted peaceful civilians in a crowded residential area. This is a well-known method because we have seen it happen often before in Lebanon. We can clearly feel the hands of Israel and its agents, especially in the timing of the incident. Several officials and some influential people have obtained information that there are plans to carry out various bombings and assassinate various personalities. Our analysis is that whenever there is relative stability in the country and there is a general tendency among the nationalists and Islamists to unite their efforts, cooperate against the occupying power, and be prepared for the numerous expected developments in our country, some circles stand to lose because of this relative stability and wish to undermine the existing situation and confuse matters all over again. By examining this, we find that those who stand to benefit by undermining the domestic situation are Israel and its agents. [passage omitted]

We believe this bombing is a message to the Syrians that their presence does not maintain sufficient security control and that this fact requires a reexamination of this relative stability. It is also a message to the Islamists and nationalists that their arena is being infiltrated and can be disrupted. The aim is to undermine confidence in this arena. It is a message to the citizens so they will lose confidence in those around them and make unreasonable demands. Therefore, the bombing has more than one aim domestically and externally. The perpetrators want to encourage the idea that any security must be linked with total reconciliation and understanding with Israel and that this must be achieved through an integrated peace treaty that deals with all issues, including internal Lebanese security. They want to encourage the belief that without such an arrangement, there will be no stability in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Before this bombing, the American University of Beirut was the target of a similar attack. Some people tried then to point an accusing finger at the Islamists, the nationalists, and the Syrians. It was discovered, however, through concrete evidence obtained by frank confessions, that Israel and its agents were responsible for that bombing. The new bomb is of the same type. The new bombing has the same objectives as shown by its timing. For this reason, we are making a direct accusation because the clarity of the new incident needs no corroborative evidence, especially in light of the information to which we referred earlier and the fact that the parties we are accusing stand to benefit from what happened.

[Qaysi] Shaykh Na'im, how can the domestic front be strengthened in the future?

[Qasim] To strengthen this front, we must enhance cooperation among all the active parties. We must set ourselves the objective of confronting the dangers caused by Israeli aggression against the region in general and Lebanon in particular. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese authorities are responsible for the neglect of duty that is sometimes evident. They have not taken heed of clear threats to certain named personalities and, perhaps, to certain areas. The authorities should have taken all the necessary precautions. They should not have permitted the exploitation of some positions, which made it possible for booby-trapped cars pass. While holding the state responsible for what is happening—because it is responsible for public security—we must draw attention to the point that the security slogan must not exploited to push through certain schemes, such as the light weapons plan [government plan to collect light arms still in the militias' possession] or exert pressures on the nationalists and Islamists under the pretense of imposing security. If the state does this, we will have suspicions about the implications, backgrounds, and goals involved. We would then point an accusing finger at other parties that we did not accuse in the analysis we submitted in our answer to the first question. We expect the state to bear its responsibilities. It is natural for it to take over responsibility for the entire situation. It must, however, know how to handle these incidents. It must not drive all the people in front of it with the same stick and in a manner that infringes on the people's dignity and security.

Prayer Leader Blames U.S.

LD0301170392 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 3 IRNA—Lebanon's Muslim leader al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said in his sermons at the Friday congregational prayers here today that the Zionist regime and the U.S. were behind Monday's bomb blast in Beirut. He said the blast which killed and wounded many people was designed to pit the Lebanese people against those who have roused them against the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Elsewhere in his sermon to worshippers at the Imam Reza (as) mosque here he expressed pleasure on the victory of Muslim groups in the last week's elections in Algeria, observing that once Muslim people be allowed the right to self-determination they will certainly opt for Islam as the ideal system of government in their countries.

He called on Muslim nations to build their politics, and economy and their statehood according to Islam and close ranks in a united struggle against the world arrogance.

Fadlallah commented that the world arrogance is neither for Sunnis nor for Shiites, but is rather against Islam in its totality.

Further on Fadlallah Comments

NC0401090892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah asserted in Beirut yesterday that the United States was behind last Monday's massacre in al-Bastah, saying: We believe that the United States gives a green light for such incidents to justify its failure to pressure Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and its failure to aid Lebanon.

Lebanon, he continued, has overcome internal wars; however, it seems as though some people do not want Lebanon to overcome its security problems.

Fadlallah said that the United States used the hostage issue as a pretext to deny Lebanon economic aid; however, now that the hostages have been freed, the United States continues to deny economic assistance to Lebanon. The United States is in a difficult situation, he noted, and it is working to disrupt the security situation in Lebanon so it will have an excuse to deny Lebanon economic help.

Foreign Minister Says Israel Ordered Attacks

NC0701110392 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Doha, Jan 7 (AFP)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on Tuesday accused Israel of having ordered several recent attacks in Lebanon, including last week's car-bombing that left 20 dead and over 100 wounded.

"It is no secret to say that (Lebanese) security services are working on a lead to establish in a clear fashion Israel's responsibility...in the crimes" aimed at destabilising Lebanon, Buwayz told the Qatari daily AL-SHARQ.

"We will unmask the (Israeli) agents who are carrying out these horrible acts aimed at sowing sedition and confusion among the Lebanese," Buwayz said.

Several Lebanese officials have accused Israel of being responsible for a car-bomb explosion in mostly Muslim West Beirut December 30 and for another blast which last month destroyed the administrative building at the American University of Beirut, leaving one person dead.

Sources on Mosad Bombings, Assassination Scheme

NC0601094392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] According to press information, the Israeli intelligence has set up a special operations room to command a network for sabotage in Lebanon and to coordinate groups affiliated with enemy intelligence, aiming to spread chaos through bombings and assassinations.

Well-informed security sources revealed that booby-trapped cars have been rigged and three groups of Zionist intelligence agents are surveying targets and planning attacks.

The first group, led by Pierre Rizq, is from the Phalangist [Lebanese] Forces security service. The group operates through various means and under cover of companies, institutions, and retail shops in Lebanese areas.

The second group is from the Cedars Guardians organization, which, since it started, has had strong links with the Mosad. The group operates a self-contained network in the occupied security strip and is active in east Beirut. It is involved in surveillance and operations.

The third group comprises Mosad-affiliated security elements in the security strip and agents who infiltrated political organizations.

According to press information, the Zionist plan seeks to sabotage the country's security and political situation through operations causing maximum innocent casualties, as did the recent car bombing in al-Bastah.

Besides car bombings, the scheme will use various criminal methods to shake security in the Lebanese areas. Well-informed sources indicate that the scheme, which comes while security in Beirut and its suburbs is lax, involves assassinations. The sources added that public figures and officials who are likely assassination targets have been asked to take precautions.

Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib has informed the cabinet that he received reports that booby-trapped cars could be sent to greater Beirut and other areas to rekindle the wave of car bombings. The cabinet has instructed security authorities to tighten security at roadblocks and monitor the movement of vehicles which information suggests might have been booby trapped already.

Resistance Attacks Israeli-Lahd Patrol

NC3112134691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Early this morning a resistance group detonated an explosive charge near a joint Israeli-agent Lahd militia patrol on the 'Aramtha-Kafr Huna road, destroying a vehicle and killing or injuring all its occupants.

UNIFIL Food, Medical Convoy Enters Town

NC0601173992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] After having been prevented by the Israeli occupation forces from entering the town of Rshaf, the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] today succeeded in entering the town which has been under siege for sometime. A UNIFIL convoy carrying water, fuel, and food entered the town at noon today accompanied by a medical team from the French contigent. The team examined the sick and distributed food.

UNIFIL has strongly protested to the Israeli forces for preventing UNIFIL personnel from entering the town two days ago.

Siege Continues

NC0701075792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] According to security reports from the south, vehicular movements by the occupation forces have been observed on Dayr Siryan-'Alman road. Yesterday these forces combed the al-Litani River area with machine guns from their positions in 'Alman and al- Shumariyah.

The occupation forces are continuing their week-long supply siege of Rshaf. Residents said the enemy forces want to locate the heroes of the Islamic resistance who recently attacked the agents' post in the town, killing or wounding several of the personnel manning it, and find out who led them to it. Inhabitants of the liberated areas have appealed to humanitarian and international organizations to double their efforts to enter the besieged town and provide food aid for the inhabitants who are about to run out of supplies.

Israeli Militia Shell Areas in South

NC0701124692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Israeli artillery in al-Zaffat area intermittently shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Kafr Rumman, and the army barracks for one hour this morning, damaging property. Sniper fire is still being heard in these areas.

According to information from the occupied border area, occupation forces took 12 armored vehicles to the confrontation line in the occupied eastern sector during the past 24 hours. These vehicles were deployed in positions in Kawkaba, Zaghlah, and Shwayya.

The information adds that Agent Lahd militia in Zammarayya and 'Ayn Qinya have opened heavy-caliber machine gun fire in the direction of Jabal al-Dahr and Jabal al-Wastani, and combed Zaghlah, Abu Qamhah, al-Hasbani, al-Khiyam, al-Dardarah, and al-Nuhas hill.

'Arafat Praises Meeting With al-Asad, Departs

JN0601200692 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has praised Syria's stands on fateful pan-Arab issues under President Hafiz al-Asad. In a statement to a SANA correspondent on the results of his visit to Damascus and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, 'Arafat said: I am happy with this meeting, which has been convened under the current important circumstances, especially following President Hafiz al-Asad's pan-Arab decision to postpone the travel of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks and to link this with the travel of other Arab delegations and with an effort on the Arab and international fronts to reach a unified position on Israel's arrogance and intransigence, as manifested in the decision to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories. He said that President al-Asad's decision genuinely reflects the feelings of the entire Arab nation.

'Arafat added: The enemy war minister made another grave decision regarding the formation of armed groups of residents in the colonies—I would not say settlements, because they are colonies inside our occupied territory. This means an escalation of the Israeli repression against our kinfolk who are holding fast against the occupation, be they in the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, or Palestine.

'Arafat described the Israeli Knesset's decision as a premeditated crime. He condemned Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied territories and its disregard for international resolutions, the international position, and the peace process. He said this decision indicates Israel's determination to undermine the peace process and shows a disregard for international values, resolutions, and laws.

'Arafat affirmed that Israel's decision to deport Palestinians is one form of racial discrimination being exercised against our people in the occupied territories. He said that this decision also contravenes relevant UN resolutions. He strongly condemned the continued Israeli aggression against holy places in the occupied Arab territories, especially in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He also condemned the persecution of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat called for consolidating Arab solidarity to confront the Israeli occupation authorities' arbitrary and repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding his statement, 'Arafat expressed great thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Palestinian people for Syria's principled pan-Arab stand which is committed to the Palestine question and the attainment of a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this morning. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation left Damascus this evening. He was seen off from Damascus International Airport by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the PLO representative in Damascus.

Vice President Receives Lebanon's al-Husayni

JN0501185992 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus, 5 Jan (SANA)—Today at 1845 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president, received Husayn al-Husayni, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies speaker. They discussed the latest developments in the peace process, as well as developments in the Lebanese arena.

The conferees' viewpoints were in agreement on the need to bolster the internal front in Lebanon to continue the march of national reconciliation, and to achieve the liberation of southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

Papers Demand U.S. Action on Israeli Deportations

JN0501083292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BATH, in an editorial entitled "Who Will Save the Peace Process," talks about the Israeli policy of torpedoing the Middle East peace talks. It describes the deportation of Palestinians from their land as a blow to the peace process and says that this is not the first incident of its kind.

AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. Administration, the owner of the current peace initiative, is no doubt well aware of the significance of Israel's deportation of a new group of Palestinian Arabs. It is also aware of Israel's objective in insisting on its settlement policy in addition to its policy of the daily suppression of Arab citizens.

AL-BA'TH emphasizes that it has become the right of every Arab to ask and wonder about the required official U.S. stand toward Israel's positions.

AL-BA'TH notes that no sooner were the Madrid peace conference sessions suspended than the U.S. Administration completely absented itself from what followed, particularly in terms of the Washington talks and Israel's positions and practices that aim at torpedoing the peace efforts.

AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. Administration in particular has confirmed information that Israel does not want peace, and that it is maneuvering and fabricating events that would stop, or rather torpedo, the peace process. Despite all this, the U.S. Administration does not lift a finger toward Israel's positions.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria's decision to postpone our delegation's departure for the peace talks was, undoubtedly, in harmony with our principled convictions with regard to the peace process. We believe, however, that it is very

important, or rather essential, for the U.S. Administration to take the necessary action to save the peace process which Israel, with various means and ways, seeks to torpedo. Will the U.S. Administration do that?

In its editorial, TISHRIN wonders: Who will curb Israel's aggressiveness? The paper notes that it is natural for the Arabs to pause at these measures and call on the international community to effectively and firmly intervene to put an end to Israel's aggressiveness and disregard for the peace process.

The paper says that Syria's decision to postpone the departure of its delegation to the Washington talks scheduled for 7 January falls within the framework of Syria's solidarity with the Palestinian people.

TISHRIN adds: No one is unaware that Israel's rulers should feel very much indebted to the United States and its generous annual aid. They should also feel very much indebted to the United Nations, which approved the membership of the Zionist entity but with the condition that it show positive adherence to peace and respect for international principles and laws.

TISHRIN demands effective intervention by the United States and the concerned countries to force Israel to comply with international resolutions and not to place obstacles before the peace process.

TISHRIN says: Active and effective U.S. intervention is no longer an Arab demand as much as it has become an international demand, or rather a U.S. popular demand, because Israel is squandering U.S. taxpayers' money on criminal practices in violation of human and people's rights, as well as of international charters.

Commentary Says Deportations 'Zionist Policy'

JN0501152592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Over the past four decades expulsion, annexation, and expansion have been key components of Zionist policy. The deportation of 12 Palestinians, therefore, is not out of the ordinary. Indeed, it follows an ever-increasing pattern of folly, intransigence, and disregard for international law and legitimacy. What is new in the latest expulsions, though, is their timing and short- and long-term objectives. They came as the parties to the peace process were preparing to leave for Washington to negotiate matters of substance and to revive hopes for peace following an Israeli-created two-month impasse in the peace conference.

Since the peace conference opened in Madrid, Israel has gone out of its way to place obstacles in the path of peace. It objected to Madrid as a venue, to the date of the resumption of the talks in Washington, and to talking to an independent Palestinian team. Now the Israelis are at it again. On the eve of convening a new round of the peace conference, it decided to expel 12 Palestinians, flying in the face of the Arabs and the international community, and in flagrant violation of international norms and conventions.

The Israeli rulers are out to derail the peace conference in the pursuit of demolishing the idea of peace itself. To that end, they are bent on making whatever decisions and taking whatever measures that might provoke this or that Arab party and irk the international community, as if they want to make the point that they are interested in the kind of peace whereby Israel takes everything without giving anything in return, and the Arabs lose everything without gaining anything. They are after the kind of unworkable peace that does not begin to meet the minimum requirements of justice.

The decision by Syria and other Arab parties to delay the departure of their delegations for the Washington talks sends the message that Syria is not about to go to the peace talks under circumstances dictated by Israel, nor will it, under any circumstances, turn a blind eye to the antics of an Israel which is bent on obstructing the peace conference. This is because all the parties concerned stand to gain from the peace we are seek, and because Israel's behavior, which the world is discovering every day, far from lending itself to peace, rather results in heightened tension and further regional complications.

We will continue to work for peace and for a successful peace conference. In the meantime, we urge the international community to neutralize and provide the appropriate response to this destructive Israeli behavior, in order to smooth the road to a fair and comprehensive peace, and so that all of us get down to the business of making peace and bringing security to the Middle East.

Bangladesh

Border Talks With Burma Set for 7 Jan

BK0601155892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] will hold at Teknaf tomorrow the second flag meeting on their border situation. A foreign office spokesman said in Dhaka today the meeting is expected to review the current situation along the border caused by the attack on the Bangladesh border post and subsequent development. Bangladesh will urge Myanmar to make the flag meeting a regular practice to ensure peaceful border. The first flag meeting between the two countries was held on the 30th of last month.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Rangoon Mustafa Farooq Mohammad is scheduled to meet the Myanmar foreign minister, Ohn Gyaw, to discuss the situation along the border, including the exodus of Myanmar Muslims to Bangladesh. The envoy will also meet the Myanmar interior minister.

Tensions Now 'Subsided'

BK0701045892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0430 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 7 (AFP)—Border tension between Bangladesh and Burma has subsided as the two countries prepared for the second round of border talks Tuesday, official sources said.

The talks were to start at Bangladesh's southeastern fishing town of Teknaf on Tuesday, the sources added.

An officer of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) border guard in Cox's Bazar said by telephone that he had yet to be informed about the start of the meeting between the two local border guard commanders.

"Although tension has subsided a lot," he added.

But security sources said the Bangladesh Armed Forces remained on full alert since Sunday on the border with Burma.

Reliable sources here said Burmese troops have pulled back one to three kilometers (up to two miles) from the border.

A Foreign Office spokesman here said Monday that the Burmese Government has agreed to a second round of border talks with Bangladesh nearly a week after Dhaka proposed them.

Dhaka has also proposed regular border talks as a means of "building confidence between the two friendly countries," he added.

Tension mounted following Rangoon's failure to respond to Dhaka's proposal last week for new talks after a first meeting a week ago that followed a December 21 attack on a BDR border outpost by Burmese soldiers.

In the first meeting a Burmese commander described the attack, which left four people dead, as a "mistake," according to a Bangladeshi Foreign Office official.

Dhaka's envoy to Rangoon was scheduled to hold talks with Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw Monday and the home minister Tuesday.

Meanwhile, newspapers here reported Tuesday that 46 Burmese Rohingya Muslims were discovered trying to get through Bangladesh to India to find work and were handed over to police.

Some 50,000 Burmese Muslim refugees have fled their homes in the past year because of alleged persecution by Burmese troops.

Iran

Switzerland Reopens Embassy After 'Diplomatic Row'

NC0501131092 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan 5 (AFP)—The Swiss Embassy in Iran reopened here Sunday after a week-long closure following a diplomatic row between Bern and Tehran, embassy spokesman Hans Stadler told AFP.

In Bern, Swiss Foreign Ministry Spokesman Christian Meuwly confirmed the announcement and said the situation had returned to normal at the mission where eight diplomats work.

Referring to an incident leading up to the row, he said the arrest of an Iranian national in Bern was "completely separate from what is happening in Tehran," and was being handled by the Swiss authorities and courts.

Zeyal Sahardi was arrested December 23 in Bern in connection with the murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar at his home outside Paris on August 6.

A French magistrate has issued an international warrant for his arrest. Submitted December 31 in Bern, it is currently being reviewed by Swiss police. If approved, Iran may appeal within 30 days in Switzerland's Federal Court.

Referring to the incident which caused the embassy closure, Stadler said a Swiss Embassy staffer prevented by Iranian authorities from leaving the country on her honeymoon was eventually allowed out of Iran last week.

The Swiss mission here also represents the interests of the United States and South Africa in Iran.

Stadler said security measures around the embassy in Tehran were unchanged Sunday.

Meanwhile the Iranian daily SALAM, mouthpiece of the country's hardliners, on Sunday said: "Relations between Iran and France, which are currently witnessing growth, will be seriously affected by this crisis."

It said France should not assume Iran would remain silent while being accused of complicity in the Bakhtiar assassination.

Iran has repeatedly denied involvement in the Bakhtiar murder.

Swiss Arrest of Iranian Diplomat Criticized

NC0501122992 Tehran SALAM in Persian 26 Dec 91 p 12

[Commentary: "Hidden Hands"]

[Text] On Saturday Swiss police arrested an employee of the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Bern. French judiciary circles linked the arrest to the assassination of Shapur Bakhtiar and stated that police, contrary to diplomatic practice, are to hand over the embassy employee to France!

In past months we have witnessed similar impudent and insulting behavior toward the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomats and officials, sometimes by elements that are linked to world arrogance. These acts have been perpetrated by some Western factions and administrations' overt and covert hands. The objective is to insult the Islamic Republic of Iran and mar Tehran's expanding relations with (relatively independent) countries by accusing Iran of terrorism and of violating human rights and democracy. This is the same weapon Washington is using, especially now, against independent Third World countries. We are witnessing pro-monafeqin elements [hypocrites—used to describe the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization], which insulted the Iranian delegation during the Islamic Conference Organization summit in Dakar, being released and returned to their countries; and the Bern police, after coordinating with France and the hidden hands of the Western and U.S. espionage services, have sent a member of the Islamic Republic's embassy to France to help the investigation into the assassination of Bakhtiar, whose hands were stained with the blood of hundreds of Muslim Iranian women and men and who did not stop hatching plots and planning coups even after the Islamic revolution's triumph!

We should ask Galindo Pohl, the UN secretary general's special envoy and who is visiting our country now, to compare such incidents and define human rights!

Switzerland Guilty of 'Hostile Steps'

NC0601114292 Tehran ABRAR (INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT) in English 26 Dec 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Another Mistake"]

[Text] Swiss police last Tuesday night in an act violating international laws arrested an Iranian diplomat on baseless charges. The Swiss government's attitude towards Iran during the past 13 years is a record of innumerable malpractices, and it will take serious and sincere efforts on the part of Bern to cleanse their memory from the mind of the Iranian nation. It would have been better if the Swiss government had shown greater mental precision in making this latest move.

The hostile steps of Bern government against the legitimate rights of the Iranian nation include continuous and all-out support for the Monafeqin (MKO), permitting the members of this group to attack Iranian diplomatic delegation and foreign minister under the very eyes of the Swiss police, giving asylum to plunderers of the public treasury of the Iranian Muslim people in the years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, granting them social and political facilities and tens of other hostile steps. Such moves have not yet been forgotten. What justification can Switzerland have for its latest move?

Bern is very well aware of international laws and immunity for diplomats, and there is need to repeat it here. The Swiss government should once and for all clarify its stance with regards to relations with Iran. If it wants sound and useful relations with Iran, this requires political determination and acceptance of recognized values of the Islamic Revolution and respect for international laws and conventions.

Repetitions of such steps is not tolerable for the Iranian nation at all.

No doubt if such steps are repeated, the Iranian government reserves the right to respond in kind, and the Iranian nation also cannot remain indifferent.

The Bern government should exert its utmost efforts to prevent repetition of such incidents. The first step it should take is to release, as soon as possible, the arrested Iranian diplomat, and necessary steps to eliminate the anger of Iranian public opinion. Naturally consequences of any shortcomings on this issue will rest entirely on the shoulders of the Swiss government.

Emami-Kashani Hails Algerian Muslims' Triumph

NC0301135492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1120 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammed Emami-Kashani in Tehran on 3 January—recorded]

[Text] I take refuge in God from the condemned Satan. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon the Muslim brothers and sisters.

From the pulpit of the Friday prayers I bless the Muslim victory in the parliamentary elections in Algeria. I bless this historic event of the brotherly Muslim Algerian people and all Muslims. The Muslims in Algeria have triumphed despite all the obstacles preventing them from reaching power. One of these was the Western media's attempts to influence Islamic peoples to separate religion from politics and to warn them of a bad political, economic, and military situation if the Islamic movement attains power.

All of Islam's enemies' plots and plans to humiliate the Muslims have failed. God said: Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow them. [Koranic verse]

We must realize that any Muslim victory will be faced by a new plot by Islam's enemies. The main plot today is to sow discord and dissension among Islamic groups and factions. Real victory is achieved when Muslims triumph over all enemies and their plots. Victory over one enemy when others are not confronted will only lead to defeat.

The Islamic revolution in Iran successfully faced many of these plots. The Muslims in Algeria must be alert to Satan's machinations. The United States fears the outcome of the struggling Algerian people's great victory. It fears the Islamic awakening everywhere—in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and North Africa. The people's return to Islam and divine teachings and the failure of the arrogant Western and Eastern doctrines have aided the Muslim victory in Algeria.

The Marxist regime established on the basis of hostility to God and spiritual values has collapsed, thanks be to God. Western arrogance will collapse because a regime or system based on colonialism and exploitation cannot survive for long. The Islamic system embodied in the government of the Iranian Islamic revolution, to which Muslims everywhere aspire, is the only one that will remain strong and survive.

God said: Which then is best? He that layeth his foundation on piety to God and his good pleasure, or he that layeth his foundation on an undermined sand cliff ready to crumble to pieces? And it doth crumble to pieces with him, into the fires of hell. And God guideth not people that do wrong.

The United States and its illegitimate child Israel will inevitably disappear. All attempts to consolidate the Zionist entity occupying Jerusalem will fail.

Muslim brothers and sisters: We must renew the Muslims' glory through our unity, our piety, and by adhering to God's rules. We must purify our souls and illuminate our life by obeying God Almighty. The most honored of you in the sight of God is he who is the most righteous. [Koranic verse]

God's prayers and peace be upon you. I take refuge in God from the condemned Satan. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When comes the help of God and victory, and thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy Lord, and pray for His forgiveness: For he is oft-returning in grace and mercy. [Koranic verse]

Editorial Says Victory 'Dubious Prize'

NC0301183692 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Dec 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Victory With a Dubious Prize"]

[Text] The results of the first multi-party parliamentary elections held in Algeria since its independence, in which the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] emerged with a clear victory, was much stronger than most observers predicted.

The victory of the Islamic Salvation Front, which won over 189 seats in the first round of the elections and is expected to have similar bright prospects for the run-off (on January 16) dealt a critical blow to the National Liberation Front's [FLN] attempts to retain a grip on the near total power it held in the north African country since independence from France.

Before the elections the ruling FLN had suggested a national unity government, but the results of the elections would seem to indicate that the Islamic Salvation Front may be able to take power on its own.

The Islamic Salvation Front's victory in the first round, which, by all accounts, will be completed in the run-offs, is the first time an Islamic fundamentalist party wins power in free elections in the Arab world, and its repercussions are bound to expand beyond the Algerian frontiers.

That the FIS's victory is an event of exceptional significance in the Arab world is evidenced by the fact that most Arab governments have refrained from commenting on the pretext of not wanting to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, while the Moroccan opposition praised the Algerian officials for allowing a democratic election. The Tunisian daily AL-SABAH questioned the intentions of the FIS leaders, should they win an absolute majority in the run-offs, on whether they meant to halt the process of democracy. And in Egypt, where fundamentalists are often arrested on charges of anti-government activities, as well as in the conservative Persian Gulf states, the press gave coverage of the event without any commentary.

Although the Islamic Salvation Front's victory is a clear triumph for the Islamic ideology, which shows the strength of the popular Islamic religious passion and their dissatisfaction with the general economic problems with which the country is plagued. [sentence as published]

The Algerian economy is burdened with a closed and inefficacious socialist system and this together with the huge foreign debts and the limited oil reserves, presents a gloomy prospect for the future of the country.

It would thus seem that the Islamic Salvation Front's victory in the parliamentary elections will make them heir to a heritage of dubious value. Consequently their future failure in overcoming the formidable social and economic problems might weaken people's trust in the ideology FIS stands for.

'Secret' Nuclear Accord Signed With France

PM0201150092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Dec 91 p 1

[By Amir Tahiri: "Secret Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation Between Iran and France"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Reports from Tehran and Paris indicate that Iran and France have signed a secret agreement on nuclear cooperation between the two countries. Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the cooperation program includes supplying Iran with enriched uranium for its nuclear projects. The sources pointed out that talks on the technical aspects of this cooperation will begin early in the new year.

These reports have aroused concern in Western capitals, especially Washington. And it has been reported that the U.S. Administration intends to demand a full and comprehensive explanation of this secret agreement.

Tehran recently asked France to supply it with enriched uranium under an agreement concluded between the two sides during the shah's rule, but Paris hesitated to supply Iran with that substance, which can be used to produce nuclear weapons. That French hesitation was the reason for obstructing an agreement between Iran and Paris to settle the 12-year financial dispute between the two countries—the dispute in which Iran is demanding that France repay a $1 billion loan. But the day before yesterday the two states agreed to settle the dispute during the visit of Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, to the Iranian capital.

The secret protocol in question on nuclear cooperation between the two countries was attached to the agreement concerning the settlement of the financial dispute. It is known that in recent months Tehran has rushed to proceed with its nuclear program. To that end it has started to invite hundreds of Iranian scientists to return from exile. Some sources say that Iran has received nuclear technology for military use from North Korea, India, China, Brazil, and Argentina, in addition to the Soviet Union prior to the recent announcement that it had ceased to exist as a political entity. Reports also say that Tehran sent Iranian teams to the republics of the former Soviet Union to recruit scientists who have become unemployed as a result of recent developments.

Gulf Security Body Should Include Iran, Iraq

NC0301172292 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Dec 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Persian Gulf Security System Should Include All Regional States"]

[Text] Foreign and finance ministers from the six states of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] met in Kuwait on Sunday to prepare for the first summit since the Persian Gulf war ended on March 2, 1991. It is expected that (P)GCC senior officials will focus their attention on defense arrangements to protect their oil-rich shaykhdoms.

The (P)GCC which was initially formed in 1981 to confront the Islamic Revolution, has clearly been unable to sefeguard the territorial integrity of its member states without relying on foreign powers. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990 and the (P)GCC'S failure to defend the tiny shaykhdom was a grave setback for the organization, which eventually brought foreign forces in record numbers to the Persian Gulf region.

It is amply clear that without Iran and Iraq, the establishment of a permanent and effective security system in the Persian Gulf is impossible. Iraq, the main source of tension in the region after having fought two devastating wars, has no stomach for another war with any of its neighbors. At the present time Baghdad is facing severe internal and international economic and political difficulties that will keep it busy for at least the next two decades and beyond.

But the major obstacle in the way of Baghdad being included in the Persian Gulf's future security arrangements is the person of Saddam Husayn and not even Iraq's Ba'th Party. As long as he is in power, probably none of the Persian Gulf Arab countries will agree to sign any security pact with Iraq.

At the same time however, the role of Iraq as the region's third largest country in terms of land and second largest in terms of population, cannot be ignored. This fact is realized by all (P)GCC member states, particularly Saudi Arabia which plays the leading role in the (P)GCC. Perhaps the only solution for solving the problem of Iraq's participation in regional security is to wait and see the aftermath of the international embargoes in place against Iraq. Nobody knows how long the Iraqi people can tolerate all the hardships imposed on them by Saddam, the Americans and their Arab brethren.

With respect to Iran's participation in regional security, a big problem exists and that is the presence of foreign forces in the (P)GCC countries. Some of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf have already signed joint military pacts with the U.S. or France and Britain. As long as foreign forces are in the region and the (P)GCC cooperates with them, it is unlikely that Tehran would join any configuration which includes alien powers.

The only effective security system for the Persian Gulf will be created with the participation of all the regional countries free of any foreign hands. Till then, the Western side of the Persian Gulf will remain the goose that lays the golden eggs for the West and not the Muslim world.

GCC 'Worthy of Severe Criticism'

NC0301170392 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Dec 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Another Setback in Kuwait"]

[Text] If anything the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council is renowned for its royal summits and subsequent failures to tackle key issues which more often than not bring them together. The three-day session which ended in Kuwait Wednesday had placed defense and security of the member states on top of its agenda. Monarchs from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and

Oman tackled the long-nagging question of how best to protect themselves and their subjects from outside aggression. Deliberations behind closed doors were dominated by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the disgraceful manner in which the (P)GCC failed to come to its rescue.

When we reflect on what this council means in terms of management, efficiency, wise decision-making and Muslim credibility there is nothing outstanding to ponder. For better or worse, the (P)GCC in its present form is powerless and worthy of severe criticism.

To this day there has been only one major beneficiary of this once-ambitious forum which has spent several hundred million dollars over a decade only to convene useless summits and ministerial meetings to plan and study Arab solidarity and strategy in the Persian Gulf region. That is President Saddam Husayn of Iraq who used (P)GCC funds to spread death and destruction in the member countries during the Kuwaiti crisis.

As a defense and economic council the six-member grouping was created in 1981 to confront Iran's Islamic Revolution and offset its influence in the littoral states and beyond. With this immature vision the two principal subscribers of the anti-Iran plan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait committed one strategic error after another. Instead of turning back the popular revolution in Iran what they got was a military invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. King Fahd's Saudi Arabia was Saddam's next target.

Mind you Iraq created havoc in the (P)GCC states as a result of their own mistakes and rash foreign policies. When kings and shaykhs realized what they had made of Saddam it was too late. The council's 10,000-strong military force, Peninsula Shield, was an utter disaster when Iraqi forces invaded Shaykh Jabir's territory in Aug 1990.

With all the defeat and humiliation of yesteryear the leaders of the council are surprisingly shy of courage and political foresight. They, however, are well-versed in the art of subservience to their patrons wherever they may be. Living in a world in which alliance with big power blocs means everything or meant everything, (P)GCC rulers seem not to understand that times are changing. If Western troops once rescued their thrones it was in the interest of what allied leaders believed in. Security of sovereign states is not safeguarded by foreign forces and as we get ready to enter the 21st century, Persian Gulf Arab shaykhdoms will be obliged to look inside rather than outside to address their defense and other requirements.

If the Kuwait summit did move on a workable security plan, it has been kept a secret. The final communique did not refer to any understanding with the Islamic Republic on the formation of a regional security force. Improved ties with Tehran were welcomed and the council reiterated its desire to extend bilateral ties with Tehran to 'reflect bonds of religion and neighborliness'.

The people and government of Iran are following developments in the Arab shaykhdoms with concern especially because some rulers there want to establish another extension of the Pentagon in our immediate neighborhood. What they should not try to forget is that foreign armies may come and go, defense pacts upheld or annulled, but the Islamic state is here to stay. To this they will have to adjust sooner or later if they really want peace and stability in this part of the world. God helps those who help themselves.

Official Says UN Undercounts War Damage by Iraq

LD0501113292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] The Iraqi regime, which has been identified by the UN Security Council as the aggressor and the side that started the war, must compensate Iran for the damage inflicted during the imposed war. Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Budget and Planning Organization, announced this fact in an interview with reporters. He said: The extent of the damage inflicted on Iran has been estimated at 30 trillion rials, and indirect damage, taking the form of interruptions in industrial and production activities, at 34 trillion rials.

He added: While confirming the indirect damage, UN experts have set the level of direct damage to our country at 97 billion dollars. The UN experts' calculation was carried out on the basis of 230 rials to the dollar, while all imports into and investment in Iran up to 21 March 1988 were based on the official rate of 70 rials to the dollar.

The vice president and head of the Budget and Planning Organization said that the UN report is inadequate with regards to war damage. He said: The calculations of the UN experts do not include the damage inflicted on 320,000 houses, most of which were destroyed, and the damage inflicted on historical sites and buildings, and the environment, as well as direct losses inflicted on security and military forces.

In conclusion, he thanked the former UN secretary general and the organization's experts for indentifying Iraq as the aggressor and for establishing Iran's innocence, as well as for their examination of the damage inflicted on Iran. He called for a more precise and comprehensive assessment of the damage inflicted on our country.

Report Assesses Desire for Larger Role in Lebanon

PM0201154292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Dec 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Deputy President Refuses To Promise To Withdraw 'Revolution Guard'"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources in Beirut have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Iranian Deputy President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani refused during his talks in Beirut to make a definite promise to withdraw the "Islamic Revolution Guard" from Lebanon.

They added that Mohajerani considered Hezbollah's retention of arms as natural because it is engaged in resistance operations in southern Lebanon.

Mohajerani arrived in Beirut on Wednesday and held talks with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and met with a number of senior Lebanese officials, among them Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

Diplomatic sources believe that Mohajerani's visit and the meetings he held during it reflect Iran's desire to pursue an independent policy in Lebanon through direct dealings between Tehran and the political and partisan forces in Beirut following years in which the Iranian role was carried out virtually exclusively through Damascus.

The sources believe that the Iranian move toward Beirut cannot be separated from the move which Tehran has recently made toward Khartoum and Sanaa and which is aimed at establishing a major regional role.

The diplomatic sources noted that the Iranian officials, who played a notable role in facilitating the Western hostages' release, are demanding, in return, a role for them in Lebanon and are insisting on some kind of political and military presence in the capital, al-Biqa', and in the south.

Government Honors UN Arms Boycott of SFRY

LD0401103692 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 4, IRNA—Iran will support the U.N. Security Council Resolution 713 banning arms sales to the belligerent parties in Yugoslavia.

In a letter to the new U.N. secretary general, Butrus Ghali, Iran's permanent mission here said that the Islamic Republic pursuant to her previous policies has taken the necessary precautions to prevent shipment of arms and military equipment to Yugoslavia.

The resolution demands all U.N. members to observe arms embargo on warring factions in Yugoslavia and inform the U.N. of their decisions and deterrent measures. Some 53 U.N member countries have so far voiced their support for the resolution.

'Unrest' Reported Among Law Enforcement Agencies

TA3112135791 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that in recent days unrest has been observed among law enforcement agencies—the gendarmerie, the police, and the traffic police—on a nationwide scale and in the respective departments. The law enforcement forces staged protests and slowdowns at their headquarters and demanded payment of the last six months of their salaries and benefits, which have been reduced by 50 percent and 25 percent, respectively. Law enforcement personnel have issued a statement in this connection in which, while lodging a protest with the regime's officials and referring to the widespread poverty and famine and crimes of theft and robbery, they demanded the restoration of the law enforcement agencies' rights.

President Chairs National Security Council Meeting

NC0501071092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired a Supreme National Security Council meeting yesterday afternoon.

Participants included all its members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders.